

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

What to know about omicron



Giuliana Nolan of Hartford Healthcare assists Jessica Lynch with a self-administered COVID-19 test at a drive-thru testing site in Newington on Nov. 29. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Variant has been found in at least 14 states, including Connecticut

By **Seamus Mcavoy**
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's first case of the omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus, first detected in Botswana and South Africa, was found in a Hartford County man who had recently traveled to New York. Gov. Ned Lamont's office reported the case on Saturday night. Called a "variant of concern" by the World Health Organization, debate and uncertainty dominates the conversation surrounding omicron among health experts

globally. Here's what we know — and don't.

How was omicron detected in Connecticut?

The first known case was reported in a Hartford County man in his 60s, who developed mild symptoms in late November, according to the governor's office. One of the man's family members recently traveled to New York to attend the Anime NYC convention, which had over 50,000 attendees. Other recently-discovered cases of omicron have been traced back to convention attendees, but health officials have not yet confirmed omicron transmission occurred at the event. The Connecticut man, who

Lamont's office said is fully vaccinated, returned a positive in an at-home COVID-19 test on Nov. 29. A later molecular test was sequenced by the state laboratory, which detected the variant. The patient is resting peacefully at home, Lamont said Sunday.

How many Northeast states have the variant?

The variant was also detected in Massachusetts on Saturday, just hours before it was announced in Connecticut. On Thursday, five cases were identified in New York City. One case has surfaced in New Jersey. No omicron cases have been found Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Vermont, but

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UConn star Bueckers carried off the court in final seconds of win

Extent of sophomore phenom's non-contact knee injury unknown

By **Alexa Philippou**
Hartford Courant

STORRS — The No. 2 UConn Huskies may have come away with a 73-54 win Sunday afternoon over No. 24 Notre Dame, but the prevailing emotions after the game from the team and fans alike were ones of dread and fear. With 38 seconds remaining, sophomore sensation Paige Bueckers fell to the floor in front of the Huskies' bench with a non-contact left knee injury. The sold-out Gampel Pavilion crowd fell silent as it watched the reigning national player of the year go down in pain. Teammates Amari DeBerry and Evina Westbrook helped carry her off the court. Bueckers made it through the handshake line with athletic trainer Janelle Francisco and close friend Azzi Fudd supporting her on either side before heading into the locker room. UConn coach Geno Auriemma said the doctors did a quick examination on Bueckers — who had a game-high 22 points prior to the injury for her fourth 20-point game of the season — and they'll know more later after an MRI. "On the replay, it looked like it probably hyperextended, best-case scenario," the coach said. According to Auriemma, the doctors said nothing twisted, which would have been "really, really bad." "Hopefully, we'll get some good news tomorrow." "We celebrated the win, but we were definitely more concerned

Turn to Injury, Page 2

UConn's Amari DeBerry, left, and Evina Westbrook carry sophomore guard Paige Bueckers to the bench after Bueckers injured a knee with seconds left in the game Sunday against Notre Dame at Gampel Pavilion. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**



From WWII hero to GOP stalwart

Senate leader from Kansas won party's nomination in 1996

By **Katharine Q. Seelye**
The New York Times

Bob Dole, the plain-spoken son of the prairie who overcame Dust Bowl deprivation in Kansas and grievous battle wounds in Italy to become the Senate majority leader and the last of the World War II generation to win his party's nomination for president, died Sunday. He was 98. His wife, Elizabeth Dole, posted on social media that he died in his sleep. He had announced in February that he had stage 4 lung cancer and that he was beginning treatment. During his 36-year career on Capitol Hill, Dole became one of the most influential legislators and party leaders in the Senate, combining a talent for compromise with a caustic wit. He shaped tax policy, foreign policy, farm and nutrition programs and rights for the disabled, enshrining protections against discrimination in employment, education and public services in the Americans with Disabilities Act. As the old soldiers of World War II faded away, Dole, who had been a lieutenant in the Army's storied 10th Mountain Division and was wounded so severely on a battlefield that he was left for dead, came to personify the resilience of his generation. President Joe Biden praised Dole on Sunday. "Bob was an American statesman like few in our history. A war hero and among the greatest of the Greatest Generation. And to me, he was also a friend whom I could look to for trusted guidance, or a humorous line at just the right moment to settle frayed nerves. I

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High school football state semifinals

Class S

- Bloomfield 22, New Fairfield 14
- Cromwell/Portland 46, Ansonia 7
- Title game Saturday, 11 a.m., at Trumbull High School*

Class L

- Windsor 35, St. Joseph 31
- Maloney 45, Masuk 21
- Title game Saturday, 11 a.m., at Veterans Stadium, New Britain*

Class M

- Killingly 13, Branford 12
- Rockville 42, Torrington 12
- Title game Saturday, 3 p.m., at Veterans Stadium, New Britain*

Class LL

- Fairfield Prep 24, Shelton 3
- Darien 24, New Canaan 10
- Title game Saturday, 3 p.m., at Trumbull High School*

Coverage in Sports

As questions mount, Lamont faces calls for transparency

Wife's investments, state contracts draw criticism: 'He has to address it'

By **Christopher Keating**
Hartford Courant

More than two years ago, Gov. Ned Lamont sought legal counsel on how to avoid conflicts with his wife, Annie's, extensive company investment portfolio. But despite receiving a 16-page ruling endorsing Lamont's plan to avoid a conflict between state business and

family investments, the governor has faced criticism recently for investments in two startup companies involving state funding. Both Democrats and Republicans say Lamont — a Greenwich multimillionaire who has spent more than \$40 million of his own money running for office — could have avoided some of the criticism by being more transparent about the investments. Lamont, for example, held a press conference about a financial technology company moving from New

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FROM PAGE ONE

Omicron

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health officials expect it to appear in the coming days and weeks. At least 15 states have omicron cases, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Is omicron more transmissible? More deadly?

The World Health Organization has described omicron variant as “highly divergent” with several mutations, “may be associated with immune escape potential and higher transmissibility.” The organization added that “there are still considerable uncertainties.” Health experts largely

agree that much remains unknown about key elements of the variant’s function, including transmissibility and virulence, or ability to make people more sick. “A lot still needs to be researched at this point; right now I’m just going to say it’s too early to tell,” said Dr. Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist at Hartford HealthCare. There was some evidence, Wu said, that people who have been infected with a previous variant of COVID-19 — which is understood to provide some protection against future infections — appear able to be reinfected with omicron. Wu again emphasized that it was too early to know this for certain. “The mainstays of prevention of infection is really still going to be vaccinations, boosters and mask-

ing and social distancing,” Wu said. **How is Connecticut responding?** Lamont has so far refrained from imposing significant new statewide safety measures, even during a modest surge in positivity rate and hospitalizations thought to be driven by the delta variant. “I think right now the people of Connecticut have been through this for a year and a half. They’re doing the right thing,” Lamont told “Face The Nation” on Sunday when asked if he plans to impose new restrictions ahead of the holidays. The governor urged people to continue to use caution, particularly older people and those with underlying health conditions. Lamont also indicated a reluc-

tance to mandate booster shots for those in assisted living facilities, citing difficulty hiring and retaining staff. “We’re at 95% capacity, but it’s a balancing act,” he said Sunday. “You want to make sure you keep people working, but you want them working safely,” As of Friday, Lamont indicated he wasn’t planning on reinstating a statewide indoor mask mandate. “There would have to be such severe community spread and a sense that the people of Connecticut were not doing the right things on their own,” he said. Lamont is also working with other states to develop an electronic proof of vaccination system, like a QR code, to make it easier for restaurants and other businesses to appropriately monitor their customers.

Why do variants keep appearing? “Variants are popping up because we’re not doing our job,” Wu said. New COVID-19 variants will continue to appear so long as viral replication is possible, he added, which means areas where there is sufficient community transmission and where individual immune systems are susceptible. The only way to stop viral replication, Wu said, is to use safety measures like vaccinations, masking and social distancing. “The virus is just doing its job, and when you give it a platform to grow, that’s all we’re doing: allowing it to grow,” Wu said. *Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com.*

Injury

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about Paige and just how she was feeling and her status right now,” said senior Olivia Nelson-Ododa, who finished the game with 14 points and 13 rebounds. “We’re praying for the best, praying for good news and just kind of waiting for the outcome.” While Notre Dame made it a seven-point game going into the fourth, the Huskies were up by double figures almost the entire quarter after scoring the first 13 points of the period. Auriemma was asked why Bueckers was still in the game with the Huskies up 18 and less than a minute remaining at the time of her injury. “She never wants to come out. She’s a pain in the ass to have on the bench because all she does is complain about why she’s not playing. And we’ve made a concerted effort in the last three or four games to get her some rest during the game,” Auriemma said. “You’re right, I don’t have an answer for why she was in the game. I mean, that could happen anytime. It could happen in practice. It could happen in a game. But I don’t like our team without her on the court. I mean, I might have to like it if she misses any time, but I don’t like the way our team looks when she’s not on the floor.” Bueckers has played 38 or more minutes in all but two of UConn’s



Bueckers stumbles as a knee gives way late in the game in front of coach Geno Auriemma and assistant coach Jamelle Elliott at Gampel Pavilion on Sunday. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT



UConn’s Paige Bueckers collapses to the court with a knee injury late in Sunday’s victory over Notre Dame. JESSICA HILL/AP

games this season, and she was on pace to record her second 40-minute game had she not gotten injured. The Huskies’ next game is Thursday, when they travel to Atlanta to take on Georgia Tech in Nelson-Ododa’s homecoming game. After that, they play UCLA in the Never Forget Tribute Classic on Saturday in New Jersey and Louisville at Mohegan Sun Arena

on Dec. 19 prior to their holiday break. Following Bueckers’ injury, well wishes flowed in from around the women’s basketball world. The UConn women’s basketball Twitter account posted a praying emoji with Bueckers’ name following the

game. “You just kind of shake your head and hope that what you saw wasn’t as bad as you think it might be or as it appeared,” Auriemma said. “But you immediately put yourself in that kid’s shoes and, ‘What are they thinking? How are they

feeling right now? What’s going through their mind when something like that happens?’ And that’s the part that I think really hits you in the pit of your stomach.” *Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphillippou@courant.com.*

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TUESDAY’S EST. MEGA MILLIONS JACKPOT: \$122 million
WEDNESDAY’S EST. POWERBALL JACKPOT: \$280 million

Official Approved Notice from U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut

Sexual Abuse and General Claims in The Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut Bankruptcy

The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation, a/k/a the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich (“Diocese” or “Debtor”) has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, *In re The Norwich Roman Catholic Corporation* (Bankr. D. Conn.). This notice is a short summary.

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Anyone who was sexually abused, on or before July 15, 2021, and believes the Diocese may be responsible for the sexual abuse must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese. Sexual Abuse Claims include but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, touching, inappropriate contact, or sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not.

When Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022.

If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese and against Diocese Related Entities, including any right to compensation.

Your information will be kept private. For a list of names of clergy that have been identified in connection with sexual abuse claims, go to <https://www.norwichdiocese.org/Find/Accused-Clergy>. For more information on the bankruptcy case, go to <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn> or call 1-855-654-0902.


The Sexual Abuse Bar Date of March 15, 2022 is not subject to further extension, even if there is a change in the applicable statute of limitations. You should consider submitting a proof of claim even if you believe your claim may be subject to an affirmative defense such as a statute of limitations.


When Should I File a General Bar Date Claim?


If you have a non-sexual abuse claim, you will need to file so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022. More information is available at <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn>.

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:

You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.

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Gov. Ned Lamont arrives with his wife, Annie, and his family for his 2019 inauguration at the William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford. JESSICA HILL/AP

Transparency

from Page 1

York City to Stamford, but he never mentioned that his wife's venture capital fund had a prior investment in the company.

When the criticism started within 24 hours, Lamont responded Oak HC/FT, the Greenwich venture capital firm cofounded by his wife, had sold the position more than six months earlier — long before the announcement on the Stamford move.

Instead of building on the transparency of the 2019 ethics ruling, Lamont has handed political ammunition to Republicans struggling to find issues to challenge Lamont on ahead of the 2022 governor's race.

Former state Democratic Party chairman John Droney, a Lamont supporter, said the governor needs a seasoned political professional around him to warn in advance about the political pitfalls of various actions.

"His crew are not the most sophisticated political operatives in the world," Droney said. "They didn't have people who are very familiar with all the black arts of politics who would say, 'You've got to do this, and you've got to do that.' I don't think that goes on in their minds."

Droney cited an administration with talented advisers like chief operating officer Josh Geballe and chief legal counsel Nora Dannehy. But while they are highly skilled in their positions, Droney said Lamont also needs to add a political operative to the mix.

"He doesn't have [former state Republican chairmen] Tom D'Amore and Dick

Foley, and he doesn't have John Droney," Droney said. "He's got to get somebody who is really a politician as an informal adviser that says to him, 'Don't do this and don't do that for political reasons' while he's running for office again."

At the same time, Droney predicted that the issue will not harm Lamont politically in the long run because the general public believes Lamont is an extremely wealthy multimillionaire who does not need to be in government to make money.

"When the smoke clears, I don't think anyone believes that a guy who spent \$50 million [on three political races from 2006 to 2018] to get elected was trying to put together a few bucks because he was the governor," Droney said. "It's not going to mean anything. It's not going to put any weight on the scale, one way or the other, when people vote a year from now."

No profits, no involvement with contract

Lamont has repeatedly said Annie Lamont has made no profit on the Stamford-based health care company Sema4 and would donate any profits to charity. Sema4 was among four firms that signed contracts with the state last year to perform COVID-19 testing in Connecticut as the virus was spreading. Lamont said there has been no profitable return yet, but the investment in fast-growing Sema4 is expected to eventually be profitable.

The Lamont administration says his office had nothing to do with the signing of the Sema4 contract, which

was negotiated and signed by the Office of the State Comptroller.

When Sema4 Holdings Corp. went public in July 2021, the opening price was \$10.56 per share. As of the closing bell Friday, public records show that the price was \$5.55 per share — meaning that Annie Lamont and investors who held the shares on opening day have not made money. Ned Lamont described the investment as "under water," but said there could be profits in the future. The company's market capitalization — the value of all shares — has dropped from about \$3 billion to \$1.3 billion.

Bob Stefanowski, the Republican candidate who lost to Lamont in the 2018 election, said Sema4's operating profits have nothing to do with whether the Lamonts earned any money on stock in the publicly traded company.

"Whether the company itself makes money or not is irrelevant," Stefanowski said in an interview. "When people bought Facebook stock at \$5 a share, it didn't even have any revenue. But the stock went up to \$10 a share, so they made money. For him to say there's no profitability in the company, that's totally irrelevant. ... The profitability of Sema4 is absolutely irrelevant."

Last week, Lamont said there's no truth to the allegations that his family is making money behind the scenes.

"I can't respond to every made-up story he throws our way," Lamont said when asked by The Courant at an economic summit in Hartford. "There's no truth to it. It's just more B.S. from B.S. Let's leave it at that, though. I can't spend the next eight

months responding to every made-up story he wants. What else you got?"

Gary Rose, a longtime professor at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, urged Lamont to call a press conference and explain the investments in both Sema4 and Digital Currency Group, a company involved in blockchain technology that will be moving its headquarters next year from Manhattan to Stamford.

"You've got to be really forthright with people on this. It won't go away, no matter what. It will get a lot worse. If he stonewalls, that would be extremely, extremely bad strategy on his part," Rose said. "It could clearly adversely affect him in his bid for reelection if he stonewalls this one. His silence makes it worse. You can't just remain quiet on this, and if he continues to do that, he's getting very bad political advice from someone."

Rose agreed with Droney that Lamont needs a trusted political adviser to anticipate the ups and downs in a tough political world in an election year in the same way that adviser Karl Rove helped Republican George W. Bush to be elected president twice.

"He doesn't have the right people in place — apparently not," Rose said of Lamont. "All of our successful presidents have had those people."

Rose predicted that Republicans will broadcast attack ads on television against Lamont on the issue "whoever the nominee is."

House Republican leader Vincent Candelora of North Branford said he compares Lamont's actions on transparency to those of Greenwich residents Ray and Barbara D'Alio, who pledged \$100 million toward an

educational partnership with the state in order to help potential high school dropouts to avoid academic failures and obtain jobs. After the partnership was created by the state legislature, various controversies arose related to disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act laws. The partnership was eventually disbanded.

"My analysis isn't whether or not this hurts Lamont in an election," Candelora said. "My analysis is that this hurts good government in the long run, and that's what every Democrat and Republican elected official should be worried about."

An appearance of conflict

Under the advisory opinion from the board of the Office of State Ethics, the governor's office is barred from having involvement with any company on a "recusal list" of 130 businesses that Annie Lamont has invested in. For example, Lamont's office cannot be involved with a recusal list company bidding for a contract with a state agency like the public health department.

Still, Quinnipiac University political science professor Scott McLean said Lamont can help put the issue to rest by making more disclosures.

"It's not the actuality of the conflict of interest," McLean said. "It's the appearance and what it looks like — and to remove the appearance of any possible conflict of interest is the most important thing in public ethics. Right now, there's a question about what this appears to be. So Lamont has to move quickly

and openly and transparently to address it before it becomes a serious problem."

McLean added, "He can't do nothing. He can't let this sit. He has to address it."

"There are so many things on the horizon that could really sink the Lamont governorship and reelection," McLean said. "Right now, he's looking fine. We've got the big surplus. Things are looking OK, but there are things like this that are unknown and future economic issues that could really sink his campaign. He doesn't want to have this one thing that he probably can control right now being the thing that becomes the issue in the next election."

"He might not be able to control COVID. He might not be able to control the economy. But this, he has some control over, and he really needs to address it — he and his wife. This is something he needs to have an answer for."

Droney, a Democrat, agrees that Lamont could have handled the issue better, but he dismissed the complaints as political, saying that Republicans are grasping for an issue against a governor with solid approval ratings.

"It's only the Republicans who are looking for an issue, or people who don't like Ned for some reason are making this up to be something more than it is. The average person couldn't care less," Droney said. "He's got so much money. He doesn't need another polo pony to bring to the Greenwich Polo Club. He's got plenty. He can't spend it all in his lifetime."

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com.

Dole

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will miss my friend," Biden said in a statement.

Politically, Dole was a man for all seasons, surviving for more than three decades in his party's upper echelons, even though he was sometimes at odds ideologically with other Republican leaders.

Chris Dodd, a senator from Connecticut from 1981-2011, had many dealings with Dole.

"My heart goes out to Elizabeth and the Dole family. Bob was a great personal friend, and I was fortunate to speak to him just a few weeks ago. He was a throwback to a time in the Senate when, regardless of political differences, you could find ways to work together, put the country first, and develop lifelong friendships. Bob Dole did that every single day of his life and is an inspiration to all who dedicate their lives to public service."

He was national Republican chairman under President Richard Nixon in the early 1970s; the running mate



Bob Dole, the GOP vice presidential hopeful in 1976, tried to become president in 1980, 1988 and 1996. STEPHAN SAVOIA/AP 1996

to President Gerald Ford in 1976; chairman of the Senate Finance Committee during Ronald Reagan's presidency in the 1980s; and presidential standard-bearer during Newt Gingrich's "revolution" of the mid-1990s, when the Republicans captured the House for the first time in 40 years and upended the power

dynamic on Capitol Hill.

Dole ran three times for the White House and won the nomination in 1996, only to lose to President Bill Clinton.

Through all of that he carried the mark of war.

Charging a German position in Italy in 1945, Dole was hit by a shell fragment that crushed two vertebrae

and paralyzed his arms and legs. The young Army platoon leader spent three years recovering in a hospital and never regained use of his right hand. He received two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars.

To avoid embarrassing those trying to shake his right hand, Dole always

clutched a pen in it and reached out with his left.

As the Republican leader, he helped broker compromises that shaped much of the nation's domestic and foreign policies.

He was most proud of helping to rescue Social Security in 1983, of pushing the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 and of mustering a majority of reluctant Republicans to support Clinton's unpopular plan to send American troops to Bosnia in 1995.

By the end of his career, Dole had cast more than 12,000 votes, having stood on both sides of many issues.

Dole devoted his later years to the cause of wounded veterans, their fallen comrades at Arlington National Cemetery and remembrance of the fading generation of World War II vets.

Robert Joseph Dole was born in his parents' house in Russell, Kansas, on July 22, 1923, the second of four children of Doran and Bina (Talbot) Dole.

After the war, during his recuperation, he met Phyllis Holden, an occupational therapist, and married her

three months later, in 1948. With Holden's help, he earned a dual bachelor's and law degree in 1952 at Washburn Municipal University (now Washburn University) in Topeka, Kansas. They had a daughter, Robin, in 1954.

After a stint in the state Legislature and as Russell County attorney, he won a House seat in Congress in 1960 and ascended to the Senate in 1968.

Nixon won the presidency that same year and became the driving political influence in Dole's life.

Nixon named him chairman of the Republican National Committee in 1971. The travel kept him far from home, and he and Phyllis divorced in 1972.

Three years later he married Elizabeth Hanford, then a federal trade commissioner; she later became a Cabinet secretary, president of the American Red Cross and a senator from North Carolina. Elizabeth Dole as well as Dole's daughter, Robin Dole, survive him. His first wife, Phyllis Holden Macey, died in 2008.

Associated Press contributed.

Next phase of abortion fight looms

Both sides expect battleground shift from DC to states

By Ashraf Khalil
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the Supreme Court court weighs the future of the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, a resurgent anti-abortion movement is looking to press its advantage in state-by-state battles while supporters of pro-abortion rights prepare to play defense.

Both sides seem to be operating on the assumption that a court reshaped by former President Donald Trump will either overturn or seriously weaken Roe.

“We have a storm to weather,” said Elizabeth Nash, state policy analyst for the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion rights. “We have to weather the storm so that in the future — five, 10, 15 years from now — we’re talking about how we managed to repeal all these abortion bans.”

The institute estimates that as many as 26 states would institute some sort of abortion-access restrictions within a year, if permitted by the court. At least 12 states have “trigger bans” on the books, with restrictions that would kick in automatically if the justices overturn or weaken federal protections on abortion access.

The current case before the court, Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, concerns a Mississippi law that bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Roe v. Wade, which was reaffirmed in a subsequent 1992 ruling in Planned Parenthood v.



A group prays last week outside the Supreme Court during arguments in a Mississippi abortion case. ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Casey, allows states to regulate but not ban abortion up until the point of fetal viability, at roughly 24 weeks.

The fate of the Mississippi case won’t be known for months, but based on opening arguments, Roe appears to be in peril. All six of the court’s conservative justices, including Trump appointees Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barret, indicated they would uphold the Mississippi law.

“There’s no doubt that what we heard from the Supreme Court was incredibly disturbing,” said Ianthe Metzger, director of state media campaigns for the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, one of the most prom-

inent advocates of abortion access rights. “It wasn’t really surprising but it was alarming.”

Susan Arnall, director of outreach for the anti-abortion Right to Life League, said she was particularly encouraged by Justice Samuel Alito’s emphasis on the concept of “viability” for the fetus as a guiding principle on when to ban the termination of a pregnancy. She predicts that modern advancements in medicine will continue to shrink the window in which a fetus is not viable, opening the door to a host of medically intricate state-level debates.

“Viability is something that is subject to medical

science,” Arnall said. “It’s going to get intensely legal and intensely medical. It’s going to be a battle of lawyers and doctors.”

Both sides seem to have been preparing for this moment for years, particularly with Trump having installed more than 200 federal judges and three Supreme Court justices during his presidency. Pro-abortion rights groups donated \$8 million in 2018 and over \$10 million in 2020, according to Open Secrets, a nonpartisan group that tracks political spending.

Those numbers outpace the public contributions of anti-abortion groups, which donated \$2.6 million in 2018

and \$6.3 million in 2020, according to Open Secrets. But the complexity of the network of nonprofits and “dark money” funds makes it difficult to produce a full accounting of the money flows.

While Washington is the primary current battleground, many leaders of the conservative movement are treating the judicial battle as won and Roe’s demise as an inevitability. The next battleground will be a shifting cat-and-mouse fight in state legislatures and in next year’s nationwide elections.

“People are realizing that seven months from now, we’ll probably be dealing with this on a state level,”

said Brian Burch, president of CatholicVote. “This will become much more prominent in state electoral races, especially governor’s races.”

Legislatures in many Republican-led states are poised for action depending on the Supreme Court’s ruling.

On Wednesday, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated previous rulings that had blocked a Tennessee law that included banning abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected — about six weeks — and ordered a rehearing by the full court.

“The battle has been happening in the state-houses for decades and it’s going to intensify,” Nash said.

The Supreme Court’s ruling is expected around June, almost guaranteeing that the issue will dominate next fall’s congressional elections as well as state-level races from coast to coast.

“That’s perfect timing, just ahead of the midterms,” said Arnall of the Right to Life League.

Proponents of abortion access claim they are prepared for the state-by-state fight and are devising multiple ways to help women seeking abortions travel to states where they can receive them.

Metzger predicted that the renewed threat will spark a massive wave of public support for abortion rights.

“There’s no doubt that (abortion opponents) have been playing a 40-year game,” Metzger said. “For us, it’s just continuing to sound the alarm. People are seeing that the threat is very real. This is not a theoretical argument anymore.”

Third party to probe role of school before shooting

Attorney general’s office in Mich. offers to lead investigation

By Corey Williams
Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. — A third party will investigate events at Oxford High School that occurred before a shooting that left four students dead and six other students and a teacher wounded, the Michigan district’s superintendent said, with the Michigan attorney general responding Sunday that her office could conduct it.

Oxford Community Schools Superintendent Tim Throne said in a statement that he called for the outside investigation because parents have asked questions about “the school’s version of events leading up to the shooting.”

He also elaborated on interactions with the student leading up to the shooting.

“It’s critically important to the victims, our staff and our entire community that a full and transparent accounting be made,” Throne said.

His comments came after a news conference Friday by Oakland County Prose-

cutor Karen McDonald that detailed numerous warning signs from the student charged in the shooting.

“Of course he shouldn’t have gone back to that classroom. ... I believe that is a universal position. I’m not going to chastise or attack, but yeah,” McDonald said.

Asked if school officials may potentially be charged, she said: “The investigation’s ongoing.”

The suspect in the Oxford High shooting, Ethan Crumbley, 15, is charged as an adult with murder, terrorism and other crimes.

On Friday, prosecutors charged his parents, James and Jennifer Crumbley, with four counts each of involuntary manslaughter.

On Twitter Sunday, Attorney General Dana Nessel said her office has reached out to the school to investigate the shooting and events leading up to it, saying, “Our attorneys and special agents are uniquely qualified to perform an investigation of this magnitude.”

The 9mm semi-automatic pistol used in the shooting was bought at a local gun shop Nov. 26 by James Crumbley as an early Christmas present for his son, authorities said.

School officials became concerned about the

younger Crumbley on Nov. 29, a day before the shooting, when a teacher saw him searching for ammunition on his phone, McDonald told reporters.

On Tuesday, a teacher found a note on Ethan’s desk and took a photo. It was a drawing of a gun pointing at the words, “The thoughts won’t stop. Help me,” McDonald said.

There also was a drawing of a bullet, she said, with words above it: “Blood everywhere.”

Between the gun and the bullet was a person who appeared to have been shot twice and is bleeding, she said.

“My life is useless” and “The world is dead” also were written.

Ethan Crumbley and both his parents met with school officials at 10 a.m. Tuesday. His parents left, and Ethan went back to his classes with his backpack, where investigators believe he stashed the gun. Authorities were not notified, something that county Sheriff Michael Bouchard said he wishes would have been done.

By 1 p.m. Tuesday, the school erupted in gunshots, chaos and bloodshed.

But looking at such an issue after the fact raises other questions, said Chris-



The actions of administrators at Oxford High School are under a microscope. Above, authorities outside of the school a day after the fatal Nov. 30 attack. NICK HAGEN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

topher Smith, professor of Law and Public Policy at Michigan State University and chair of the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.

You have to consider whether the “teacher and school officials specifically have in their training that you need to report all these things,” Smith said.

In his statement Saturday, Throne elaborated on the events of Tuesday morning, saying the student was taken to the guidance counselor’s office where he claimed

the drawing was part of a video game he was designing and that he planned to pursue video game design as a career. He worked on homework while waiting for his parents as counselors watched him.

“At no time did counselors believe the student might harm others based on his behavior, responses and demeanor, which appeared calm,” Throne said.

“While both of his parents were present, counselors asked specific probing questions regarding the

potential for self-harm or harm to others,” Throne said, adding counseling was recommended for him, and his parents were notified that they had 48 hours to seek it. “When the parents were asked to take their son home for the day, they flatly refused and left without their son, apparently to return to work.”

He said the student had no prior disciplinary infractions so he was allowed to return to the classroom instead of being “sent home to an empty house.”

CNN anchor accused of sexual harassment days before network firing

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A new allegation of sexual harassment against Chris Cuomo emerged just days before CNN announced it was firing the anchor amid an investigation into work he did defending his brother from similar harassment allegations.

Attorney Debra Katz said Sunday that her client was the victim of “serious sexual misconduct” by Cuomo and that she had contacted CNN

about the woman’s allegations Wednesday.

CNN suspended Cuomo earlier this week after details emerged about how he assisted his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, as the politician faced sexual harassment allegations. Network officials said “additional information has come to light” when it announced Chris Cuomo’s firing Saturday,



Chris Cuomo

day, but did not elaborate.

Katz said the accuser decided to come forward after the New York attorney general’s office released evidence showing Cuomo had taken a much more active role than previously thought in strategizing and helping to craft a response to the allegations his brother was facing.

When the initial allegations surfaced against

Andrew Cuomo, Chris Cuomo had told viewers he had “always cared very deeply about these issues,” Katz said.

“Hearing the hypocrisy of Chris Cuomo’s on-air words and disgusted by his efforts to try to discredit these women, my client retained counsel to report his serious sexual misconduct against her to CNN,” Katz said.

CNN was reviewing Chris Cuomo’s conduct following the new information, and a law firm hired to help had

recommended the network terminate Chris Cuomo.

“It goes without saying that these decisions are not easy, and there are a lot of complex factors involved,” CNN chief Jeff Zucker wrote in an email to staffers Saturday.


Cuomo issued a statement on Twitter calling the decision disappointing.

“This is not how I want my time at CNN to end but I have already told you why and how I helped my brother. So let me now say

as disappointing as this is, I could not be more proud of the team at Cuomo Prime Time and the work we did,” he said.

The new misconduct allegation comes after a veteran TV executive, Shelley Ross, wrote a column for The New York Times in September saying Chris Cuomo had groped her at a party 16 years ago, when they both worked for ABC News.

Cuomo told the newspaper that “I apologized to her then, and I meant it.”





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NATION & WORLD

NEWS BRIEFING

Belgium police clash with rowdy marchers protesting virus limits

From news services

BRUSSELS — Belgian police used water cannon and tear gas Sunday to disperse some rowdy protesters in Brussels after most demonstrators marched peacefully to protest tightened COVID-19 restrictions that aim to counter a surge of coronavirus infections.

Thousands came to reject the new measures announced Friday, the third week in a row that the government has tightened its rules as an avalanche of new cases strains the country’s health services, depriving people with other life-threatening diseases of treatment.

Shouting “Freedom! Freedom!” and carrying banners that said, “United for our freedom, rights and our children,” protesters marched to the European Union headquarters. Some also carried signs critical of vaccines and against making vaccine shots mandatory.

The main crowd in Sunday’s mostly peaceful march had dispersed when about a 100 protesters ran into a riot police barricade cordoning off access to the European Commission. After a brief stand-off with police, protesters hurled trash and other objects, including a bicycle, at police and set off firecrackers and flares. Police used water cannon and fired tear gas to disperse the crowd.

On Friday, Prime Minister Alexander De Croo announced that day care centers and primary schools will close for the holiday a week early, and children must now wear masks from the age of 6. Indoor events will only be allowed with a maximum of 200 people.

Previously, the government closed nightclubs, and ordered bars and restaurants

to shut at 11 p.m. for three weeks.

According to the latest coronavirus figures, the EU nation of 11 million appears to have reached a plateau. On a weekly average, 17,862 new daily cases were reported in Belgium, a rise of 6% over the previous week. Hospital admissions rose 4%. More than 3,700 people are hospitalized with the virus.

More than 27,000 people with the virus have died in Belgium since the outbreak began last year.

Infected cruise: A Norwegian Cruise Line ship with at least 10 passengers and crew members infected with COVID-19 docked Sunday in New Orleans, where health officials said they were trying to disembark people without worsening the spread of the coronavirus illness.

The Norwegian Breakaway departed New Orleans on Nov. 28. The Louisiana Department of Health said in a news release that over the past week, the ship made stops in Belize, Honduras and Mexico.

Norwegian said it requires all passengers and crew members to have been vaccinated against the coronavirus prior to departure.

More than 3,200 people were on board the ship, officials said.

Papal return to Lesbos: Pope Francis returned Sunday to the Greek island of Lesbos to offer comfort to migrants at the Mavrovouni refugee camp and blast what he said was Europe’s indifference and self-interest “that condemns to death those on the fringes.”

A maskless Francis took his time walking through the camp Sunday, patting children and babies on the head and posing for selfies.



A man inspects a truck buried in ash Sunday, a day after the highest volcano on Java Island erupted, killing at least 14 people, in Lumajang district in East Java province. Rescuers sifted through smoldering debris and thick mud in search of survivors. Villages and nearby towns were blanketed, and several hamlets were buried under tons of mud from volcanic debris. **TRISNADI/AP**

He gave a “thumbs up” after he was serenaded by African women singing a song of welcome.

It was Francis’ second trip to Lesbos in five years. He lamented that little had changed since 2016, when Lesbos was at the heart of a massive wave of migration to Europe and when Francis brought 12 Syrian Muslim refugees from the island back home with him aboard the papal plane.

That gesture raised hopes among current residents of the Lesbos camp, some of whom have given birth to children here while waiting for their asylum claims to be processed. But there were no papal airlifts Sunday and Francis returns to the Vatican on Monday.

Francis’ five-day trip to Cyprus and Greece has been dominated by the topic of migration and Francis’ call for European countries to show greater solidarity with those in need. He insisted Sunday that Europe must stop building walls, stoking

fears and shutting out “those in greater need who knock at our door.”

More than 1 million people, many fleeing war in Iraq and Syria, crossed from Turkey into Greece during 2015 and 2016, with Lesbos the busiest Greek crossing point. The flow may have ebbed in Lesbos, but it hasn’t stopped, and anti-migrant sentiment in Greece and beyond has only hardened in the ensuing years, with the latest flashpoint on the EU’s Polish border with Belarus.

Tensions in India: Angry villagers burned army vehicles in protest after more than a dozen people were killed by soldiers who mistakenly believed some of them were militants in India’s remote northeast region along the border with Myanmar, officials said Sunday.

Nagaland state’s top elected official, Neiphiu Rio, ordered a probe into the killings, which occurred Saturday.

An army officer said soldiers fired at a truck after receiving intelligence about a movement of insurgents in the area and killed six people. As irate villagers burned two army vehicles, the soldiers fired at them, killing nine more people, the officer said on condition of anonymity.

One soldier was also killed in the clash with protesters, he said.

Myanmar protesters: An army vehicle barreled into a peaceful march of anti-government protesters in military-ruled Myanmar’s biggest city Sunday, reportedly killing at least three people, witnesses and a protest organizer said. Sunday’s march was one of at least three held in Yangon, and similar rallies were reported in other parts of the country a day ahead of an expected verdict in the first of about a dozen criminal cases against Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was toppled in a

military takeover Feb. 1. Since she was detained by the military, Suu Kyi has faced charges from breaching coronavirus regulations to corruption.

Austrian avalanche: Three skiers were killed and two injured in an avalanche in central Austria, authorities said Sunday. They were part of a group of 11 skiers, eight of whom were hit by a 655-foot wide slab of snow as they ascended a slope during a ski tour Saturday in the Tweng area, in Salzburg province.

Three of the skiers were buried by the avalanche, while another two were partly buried and able to free themselves, regional police said.

Rescuers were able to find two skiers with the help of their search devices; one was dead and the other died at a hospital in Klagenfurt. The third buried skier wasn’t carrying a search device. His body was found four hours after the avalanche.

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NATION & WORLD

Abrams takes ‘gamble’ with 2nd run

Governor’s race in Georgia brings new tests, experts say

By Jeff Amy
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Stacey Abrams announced a long-awaited second run for Georgia governor last week, but with Democrats facing a sour national environment and Republican Gov. Brian Kemp facing challenges within his own party, the 2022 campaign will look different from 2018.

Abrams’ narrow loss, highlighted by her claims that Kemp used his prior post as secretary of state to unfairly push voters away, vaulted her to national stardom in a year when Democrats nationwide capitalized on then-President Donald Trump’s unpopularity.

Three years after Abrams lost to Kemp — a longtime political rival — by about 55,000 votes, her candidacy ensures that voting rights will remain at the center of the political conversation in Democratic circles and in Georgia, where Republicans enacted a sweeping law of voting restrictions this year.

Abrams’ campaign also carries historic significance: If she is successful, she would become the first Black governor of Georgia and the first Black woman to serve as governor of any state.

Abrams’ contention that Georgia could be dragged into the Democratic column by focusing on registering and mobilizing infrequent Democratic-leaning voters was validated in 2020, when Joe Biden won Georgia by about 12,000 votes and in 2021, when Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock won runoffs to deliver control of the U.S. Senate to Democrats.

Though some Democrats and activist groups have courted her to pursue a Senate seat or run for president, her long-held goal has



Stacey Abrams’ second campaign for governor faces a different environment than her 2018 bid. **EZE AMOS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

been to become governor of Georgia, longtime allies said. But the political tide appears to be running against Biden and other Democrats, with low approval ratings and losses in Virginia elections.

“The environment for Democrats is wretched,” said Brian Robinson, who advises Republican candidates in Georgia. “These are terrible dynamics for Stacey Abrams, and she wants to be president and not governor. If she loses twice, she’s toast. She’s taking a gamble — a big gamble.”

The Georgia voters who might change their minds are mostly college-educated suburbanites.

But Democrats argue most Georgia voters are fixed in their partisan preferences, and the key is getting your side to vote. Abrams and her supporters argue that outreach and a focus on issues will be more important than national headwinds.

“What I saw in 2020 and 2021 is that when people

are reached out to, when we talk to them and we meet them where they are, they will vote and they will turn out,” Abrams told WXIA-TV Thursday.

Nse Ufot, CEO of the New Georgia Project, a voter mobilization group Abrams founded, pointed to gains by Black and more liberal candidates in some Georgia municipal elections this year, although more conservative candidates prevailed in some Atlanta suburbs. Those elections are nonpartisan, although party affiliations are often widely known.

“The truth of the matter,” Ufot said, is the elections proved “Virginia is not Georgia.”

Part of Democrats’ case is that Georgia’s population growth is being driven by nonwhite residents, bringing the state to the cusp of becoming majority nonwhite in the 2020 census. That’s partly a story of African American growth, but also driven by

rapidly increasing residents of Latino and Asian descent.

“What’s different is Georgia is on a demographic and partisan trajectory, that over the last 10 years has moved the state toward Democrats,” Robinson said.

But Republicans also will be trying to maximize their turnout, especially among exurban and rural white residents, and Emory University political scientist Andra Gillespie said a Democratic advantage is not certain in Georgia.

“There’s going to be times when Republicans win elections and Democrats win elections,” she said.

Gillespie said it’s incapable that the Georgia governor’s race will be “nationalized because of the polarized moment that we’re in politically.”

Abrams wants to swing the spotlight to Kemp’s record, arguing his failure to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income adults and his opposition to COVID-19 restrictions prove he doesn’t

have the best interest of Georgians at heart.

“We have a current governor who has failed the people of Georgia, that as the pandemic has raged, he has left behind too many communities, that he seems to ignore the real pain that’s hurting families and hurting areas of the state, and that he seems to be focused on those who agree with him,” Abrams told WXIA-TV.

But Kemp is more than ready to fight on that ground, betting that his record on COVID-19, a low unemployment rate and big pay raises for teachers will appeal to the voters he needs.

“That’s what we’re going to remind people about, is that record,” Kemp told reporters Thursday. “That’s what I’m going to be running on.”

Unlike in 2018, Abrams has no declared opposition and is likely to cruise to the Democratic nomination in a May primary.

But Kemp is under siege by Trump and his support-

ers who believe the governor didn’t do enough to overturn Biden’s 2020 victory in Georgia. Republican Vernon Jones is among those challenging Kemp, but he faces the more serious threat that Republican former Sen. David Perdue might enter the race.

Trump sent Kemp a warning shot Wednesday night, saying in a statement that a Republican triumph in 2022 could be “hard to do with Brian Kemp, because the MAGA base will just not vote for him after what he did with respect to Election Integrity and two horribly run elections.”

Trump added that “some good Republican will run, and some good Republican will get my endorsement, and some good Republican will WIN!”

Kemp and his supporters are making clear that they will fight Perdue if necessary and that a bitter primary could pave Abrams’ way to victory.

“So anybody else that wants to get in the race, you would have to ask them why, why are they going to do that? Kemp said Thursday. “Do they not like how great our economy is?”

Democrats are hoping the Republican Party can’t bind up its wounds over Trump’s baseless claims that he was cheated out of Georgia’s electoral votes.

“I don’t know what their mess is going to be,” Abrams spokesperson Seth Bringham said. “I know our side is going to be unified, and I know that matters.”

For Kemp, though, Abrams’ entry is a chance to call the GOP to his side.

“I think it’s a rallying point for Republicans because we know that this is just not the Georgia radicals that we’re going to be facing,” Kemp said. “It’s going to be the Hollywood crowd and everybody else is going to flood money in here.”

The New York Times contributed.



Presidential candidate Eric Zemmour holds his first campaign rally north of Paris. Zemmour has drawn comparisons to former U.S. President Donald Trump. **RAFAEL YAGHOZADEH/AP**

Violence overshadows rally of French far-right hopeful

By Sylvie Corbet
Associated Press

VILLEPINTE, France — Anti-racism activists were beaten up Sunday as far-right former French TV pundit Eric Zemmour held his first presidential campaign rally near Paris, a few days after he formally declared his candidacy in a video highlighting his anti-migrant and anti-Islam views.

Zemmour has drawn comparisons in France to former U.S. President Donald Trump because of his rabble-rousing populism and ambitions of making the jump from the small screen to national leadership in France’s presidential election in April.

The 63-year-old with multiple hate-speech convictions unveiled his campaign’s slogan: “Impossible is not French,” a quote attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte.

“What’s at stake is huge,” Zemmour said. “If I win that election, it won’t be one more (political) change-over, but the beginning of the reconquest of the most beautiful country in the world.”

Supporters at the rally sang France’s national anthem, shouted “Zemmour, president!” and “We will win!” while brandishing the tricolor French flag.

AP reporters saw some activists dressed in black with “No to racism” on their sweaters being beaten up by people at the rally and brutally taken out of the room. The scuffles continued outside the room covering politics were booed and insulted by Zemmour’s supporters ahead of his speech, leading them to be briefly escorted outside the room by security guards.

Reporters from a French television show covering politics were booed and insulted by Zemmour’s supporters ahead of his speech, leading them to be briefly escorted outside the room by security guards. They came back soon afterward, but Zemmour harshly criticized the media in his speech.

“They are making up polemics about books I wrote 15 years ago, they snoop into my private life, call me all sort of names... My adversaries want my political death, journalists want my social death and jihadists want my death,” he said.

The rally, which was initially held in at concert hall in Paris, was moved to a bigger exhibition center in a northern suburb of the capital for security reasons as a protest against Zemmour took place Sunday in Paris, organized by more than 50 organizations, including far-left political parties, unions and anti-racist groups.

Police had feared clashes with Zemmour’s far-right supporters.

Zemmour has gained strength on France’s political scene in recent months, starting to siphon off supporters from far-right National Party leader Marine Le Pen, who has long said she would run for the French presidency next year.

His first rally came one day after France’s main conservative Republicans party picked Valerie Pécresse, the head of the Paris region and a former minister from 2007 to 2012, as its presidential candidate.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who defeated Le Pen in the 2017 presidential runoff, is expected to seek a second

Nearly 60% of US population fully vaccinated, CDC reports

By Vimal Patel and
Victor Manuel Ramos
The New York Times

The United States was poised to soon surpass more than 200 million people fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 198 million people in the United States were fully vaccinated as of Saturday, accounting for almost 60% of the total population. More than 45 million had also received additional doses.

On Tuesday, the agency’s director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, said that although health officials were encouraging those eligible to get boosters, the agency was not changing its definition of fully vaccinated to include boosters “right now.”

Many vaccination clinics and local officials are reporting long lines and delays in booking vaccination appointments, which experts said were the product of expanded eligibility for boosters and fears over the new omicron variant, although much remains unknown about the new version.

Mitchel Rothholz, the lead for immunization policy at the American Pharmacists Association, said that pharmacies were moving more to an appointment-based model with the uptick in demand, similar to when vaccines were first rolled out and there was a crush to get them. This means that people wanting a vaccine may need to plan ahead and could have to wait a few more days.

“We’ve got to go to a system where we can manage expectations,” he said.

The United States still lags behind a range of nations, including Canada, China, France, Japan, Spain and Singapore, in terms of the percentage of the popu-



Naomi Everman, 8, gets a bandage after her shot Thursday in Bloomington, Minn. **CARLOS GONZALEZ/STAR TRIBUNE**

lation that is fully vaccinated.

The Biden administration is trying to make getting vaccinated easier.

In remarks Thursday on how to fight the delta and omicron variants, President Joe Biden said the government would create hundreds of family vaccination clinics, one-stop shops for shots and boosters. Partners in a federal pharmacy program, including major chains like CVS and Rite Aid, will also make “family-based scheduling” available in the months ahead, according to the White House.

Since the emergence of the omicron variant, the CDC has strengthened its booster guidance, urging that everyone age 18 and older get one six months after a Pfizer or Moderna series or two months after a Johnson & Johnson shot.

More than a dozen states have identified the omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Early indications suggest omicron may be less dangerous than delta, Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Joe Biden’s chief medical adviser, told CNN’s “State of the Union.”

Dr. Leana Wen, a public health professor at George Washington University, said there were some pockets of the country where vaccines

were expiring because demand was low and others where lines were longer than they were a month ago because of greater demand.

But, she said, demand is likely to ease in a few weeks.

“Whenever there is a new recommendation, there are the early adopters who are extremely eager to want to get that booster right now,” she said, adding that “supply and demand will equilibrate in short order.”

Some states and counties have hosted mass-vaccination clinics to alleviate the burden on pharmacies and meet demand from residents.

Richard Clark, director of emergency management for Bernalillo County in New Mexico, which includes Albuquerque, said the county had been running vaccination clinics that attracted about 300 or 400 people each time. Clark said he had heard about people driving from counties an hour away to get their vaccine because they were worried about the upcoming holidays and the new virus variant.

“We decided, let’s just do a large one,” he said, “and our 1,000 slots were filled within probably a day and a half.”

Associated Press contributed.

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Kamala Harris out of sight as crises mount

By Chris Talgo

At the outset of the Biden administration, Vice President Kamala Harris was a media darling, portrayed as the heir apparent and always willing to make a public appearance.

In fact, the White House was so high on Harris in the early days that it instructed media to, “Please be sure to reference the current administration as the ‘Biden-Harris administration’ in official public communications.” That was then; this is now.

For the last few months, as the Biden administration has tried to juggle multiple crises, Harris has kept a very low profile.

As an avid news observer, I cannot recall the last time Harris sat down for a hard-hitting interview or held a news conference of any substance. In fact, ever since President Joe Biden declared Harris “border czar,” the vice president has been almost absent from the public eye.

Perhaps that is because as border czar, Harris has failed miserably. The American people are fully aware that the southern border is a sieve. In 2021, on Harris’ watch, more than 1.7 million immigrants have illegally crossed the southern border. Drugs, especially fentanyl, are pouring over the southern border in record amounts. Human trafficking is also running rampant



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at the Charlotte Area Transit Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Thursday. **KHADEJEH NIKOUYEH/AP**

along the U.S.-Mexico border. As border czar, Harris has been an absolute debacle. To date, she has made one token appearance at the border, when she complained about “rhetoric and finger-pointing.”

Instead of dealing with the fraught situation at the border, Harris said she would rather focus on the “root causes” of the problem. However, months after becoming border czar, the situation is becoming worse, not better.

Given her abysmal record as border czar, it makes sense that Harris would abstain from the media spotlight. Even though it

is far-fetched to believe the mainstream media would actually press the vice president on her terrible tenure as border czar, it seems as if Harris and her handlers would rather avoid any and all possible inquiries. Yet, there likely are a few more reasons for Harris’ seclusion during these trying times.

Harris, like any politician, does not want to be associated with the problems facing the Biden administration. From inflation to the supply-chain crisis to vaccine mandates, the Biden administration is drowning in difficulties. And Harris, who is a consummate politician, would rather lie low than face the scrutiny.

Of course, that is the opposite of leadership. Leaders address issues head-on, they do not hide from them.

Another possible reason behind Harris’ hibernation could be her pathetically low poll numbers. Politicians like Harris are hyper-aware of — and hypersensitive about — their poll numbers. Harris’ poll numbers are cratering. According to a recent poll, just 28% of Americans approve of Harris’ job as vice president.

Because her poll numbers are so low, Harris is stuck between a rock and a hard place. Does she step into the spotlight in an attempt to revive her lagging approval rating? Or, does she sit on the sidelines, hoping that her poll numbers rise in the

absence of any new gaffes or hysterical laughing fits?

It seems that Harris has chosen the latter.

And who can blame her? Harris is a terrible retail politician. Such is why she was bounced from her party’s presidential nomination contest well before lightweighters like Tom Steyer and Pete Buttigieg dropped out. Aside from her struggles to relate to everyday Americans, Harris also lacks expertise and experience in fields relevant to her new position. Harris, unlike many of her predecessors, is not known for her ability to reach across the aisle and forge friendships with those in the opposing political party.

When Biden held the position of vice president, he at least tried to finagle a few bipartisan bills. To date, Harris has been derelict in her duty to grease the legislative skids.

Less than one year into her four-year tenure as vice president, Kamala Harris seems bored with her job, unwilling to enter the fray, and annoyed when asked simple questions. This does not bode well for her political future.

Chris Talgo is senior editor at The Heartland Institute. He wrote this for Inside Sources.com.

State regulations keeping skilled workers from getting hired

By Tim Ackert

Recent labor reports paint a grim picture for Connecticut’s worker-starved businesses, already struggling to recover job losses they’ve incurred over the past year. According to the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, the state had 70,000 unfilled job openings in October, but also 86,600 fewer people looking for work than there were a year ago.

But while there is a labor shortage in many sectors of our economy, in the building and construction trades there’s just the opposite — a surplus of qualified apprentices ready to join the skilled workforce, but who cannot be hired due to a regulatory constraint placed on certain licensed contractors: the apprenticeship hiring ratio.

To ensure safety on the job site, Connecticut requires that every apprentice performing work on a job must be supervised by at least one licensed journeyman — also known as a “site ratio.”

But the state also established separate “hiring ratios,” enforced by the Department of Consumer Protection, to limit the number of apprentices hired for certain trades — specifically, the electrical; plumbing; heating, piping, and cooling; sprinkler fitting; and sheet metal working trades.

This cap on new apprentices is creating additional challenges for contractors, especially those who are called on to perform demanding and time-consuming work on our power grid, indoor air ventilation systems and other critical links in our state’s infrastructure.

Prominent labor unions, largely supportive of the rule, claim it is necessary to prevent untrained apprentices from performing unsupervised work. But the site ratio already does this — requiring that each apprentice be supervised by at least one licensed journeyman while performing any work on an active job site.

While this regulation has had a negligible effect on the safety of apprentices in the workplace, it has been particularly damaging to the building and construction trades, once considered critical partners to fulfilling Connecticut’s workforce development and infrastructure goals.

With billions of federal infrastructure dollars coming our way, the industry could receive a needed boost and construction jobs will likely be in high demand. But that is not to say the industry will easily overcome its legacy hiring challenges.

Jobs in the building and construc-



In Connecticut’s building and construction trades, there’s a surplus of qualified apprentices ready to join the skilled workforce but who cannot be hired due to a regulatory constraint placed on certain licensed contractors: the apprenticeship hiring ratio. **HARTFORD COURANT FILE**

tion trades still remain the hardest to fill for a seventh year in a row, according to ManpowerGroup’s Talent Shortage Survey. And according to numbers compiled by Build Your Future, a nonprofit dedicated to worker recruitment in the trades, there are over 12,000 existing vacancies in the technical fields covered under Connecticut’s hiring ratio. This includes over 4,000 openings for electricians and over 900 for HVAC technicians, just as many heating and electrical contractors are bracing for peak winter service season.

Licensed technicians are not made overnight, and the overwhelming demand

for skilled workers we are seeing today is from years of this state-imposed regulation preventing apprentices from entering an aging workforce.

Currently, retirements among aging licensed electricians are outpacing the number of new electricians graduated from the state’s Registered Apprenticeship Program. And with a smaller pool of available contractors able to perform the work, consumers will ultimately end up paying the price — whether by paying higher contract rates for service or by spending weeks to months waiting for an appointment.

Reversing this practice and allowing

affected contractors to hire the necessary number of apprentices is essential to meeting our infrastructure goals and reshaping the face of our workforce for decades to come. Scrapping the unwieldy and arbitrary apprenticeship hiring ratio could instantly create thousands of meaningful and fulfilling careers for the essential men and women we need to keep our state running.

State Rep. Tim Ackert (R-Coventry) is the owner of Ackert Electric, a licensed electrical contractor, and former ranking Republican on the legislature’s Energy and Technology Committee.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop idolizing sports figures

Tiger Woods returns — who cares? Here’s a guy who has hurt himself physically two times now by driving recklessly and we should applaud his return? Sadly, it is all part of the obsession we have in this country with sports figures, even those who endanger other people like Woods and Aaron Rodgers. Yet we have people who want to have Dr. Fauci arrested or even threaten him physically. Are we a society spiraling out of control? I think we need a new set of priorities and maybe some mental health evaluations to get us back on track.

Vincent Curcuru, Simsbury

Bad rewards policy at XL Center

One of the reasons I went back to attending UConn games at the XL Center was the mandate that all fans wear a mask. You may or may not agree with the rule, but if you decide to go to the game, you know the require-

ment. I know it’s virtually impossible for XL Center staff to enforce this, but I don’t think it’s necessary to highlight and feature those who ignore the rule. During almost every intermission, there is some type of promotion that features the fans. For some reason, each of those promotions routinely feature maskless fans mugging for the camera. If you are going to have a rule in place, why showcase those who choose to ignore it? This is not a mask vs. no mask question — I’m pointing out the hypocrisy of instituting a rule and then glorifying, and in some cases rewarding, those who don’t follow it.

Joe Duggan, Newington

Letter on absentee voting had many errors

Read with interest the letter from John Mills from Bristol on Nov. 30. A few comments:

■ You need to remember that 2020 was not normal, the world had turned upside-down because of COVID. Having absentee balloting as an option helped to preserve

everyone’s right to vote.

■ It has been investigated and proved, over and over, that there were no issues with integrity around the vote and the voting process, absentee ballots included.

■ The absentee ballot process is secure. The only havoc surrounding the absentee voting process was the fantasy coming from the guy who sat in the White House at the time.

Dave Warchol, West Hartford

Revoke Ronny Jackson’s medical license

Former White House physician for Donald Trump — and now congressman from Texas — Ronny Jackson should have his medical license revoked. Jackson tweeted that the news about the omicron variant was “manufactured by the Democrats to push unsolicited nationwide mail-in ballots.” What a preposterous statement. Jackson is indicating we should not be vigilant about the virus. He took the Hippocratic oath that says, “do no harm.”

Bette Marafino, West Hartford

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

HARTFORD
Patricia Williams
WEST HARTFORD
Patricia Williams
* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES




Williams , Patricia Mae

Patricia Mae Williams, 73 of West Hartford, Ct passed away on January 13, 2021 and at that time we were not able to gather "in person" to celebrate her life. Join us on December 8th, 2021 at 6pm for "A Birthday Gone Home Celebration" to be held at The First Cathedral, 1151 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Patricia Williams believed in people and community and the value and strength therein; regardless of status or stature. Come join us in celebration. In lieu of flowers please consider contributing to the Patricia Williams Scholarship Fund. Checks should be made out to Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative (UANC), 1229 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112.


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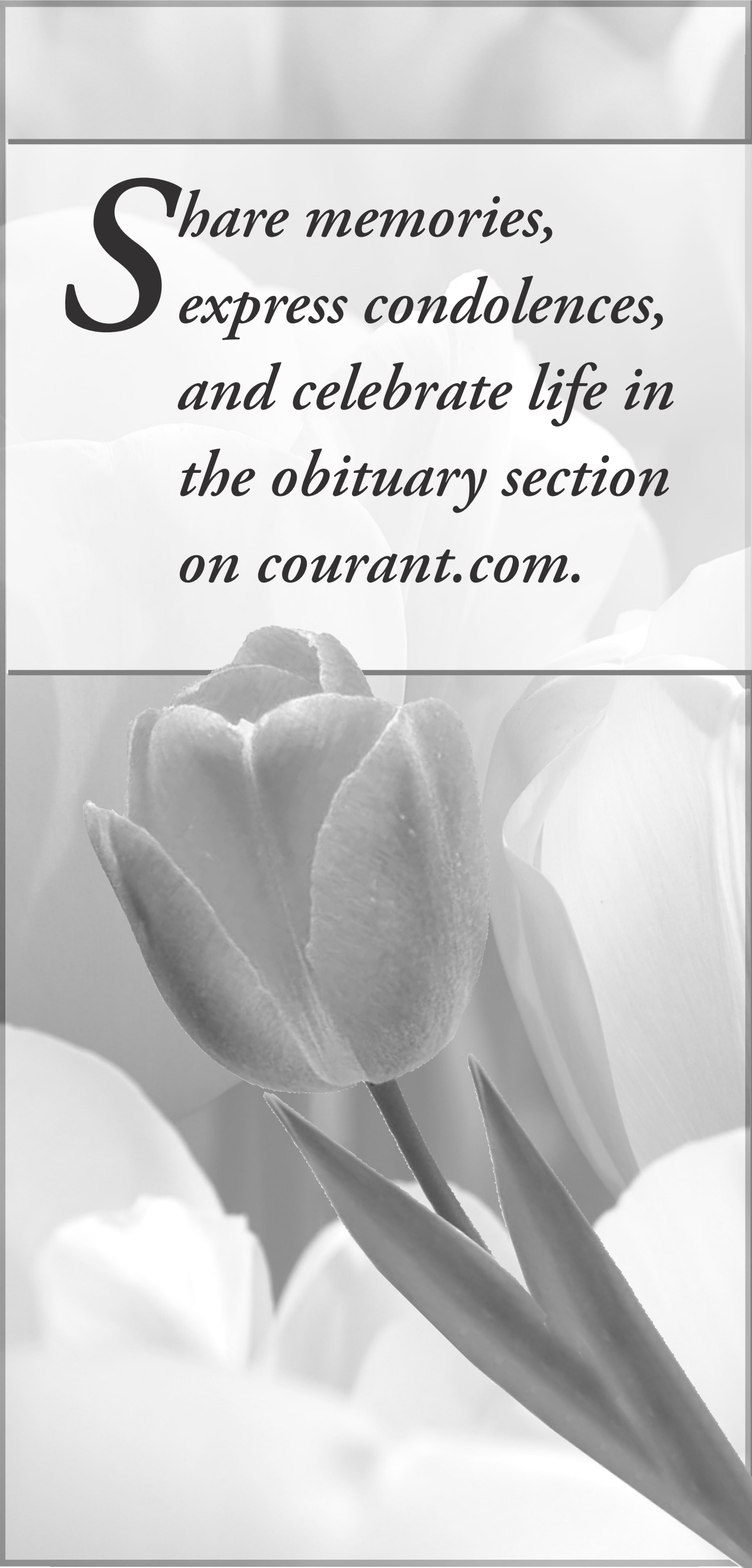
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 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	 MARINES 2	 LIONS CLUB	 METHODIST CHURCH	 ORTHODOX COMBINED CROSS	 PRAYER HAND
 ORTHODOX RUSSIAN CROSS	 STAR OF DAVID	 FOOTBALL	 POLICE BADGE	 CORE ORGAN DONOR	 SHAMROCK
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City close to finalizing deals for crisis team

Hartford in talks with CRT, Wheeler for new civilian program

By Rebecca Lurye
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The city of Hartford is in talks with two local agencies about running a new civilian crisis intervention team to comple-

ment the police department, a program Mayor Luke Bronin initially hoped to launch this past summer.

The mayor’s office said it may award contracts to both Community Renewal Team and Wheeler Clinic to implement the new Hartford Community Responders program, which will provide an alternative to an armed police response in certain situations involving substance abuse, mental

health and other non-violent problems.

“We are currently in the process of finalizing our agreements with providers, and we’re aiming to have the program in place by the first of the year,” communications assistant Akash Kaza said. Wheeler Clinic is a community health center, providing addiction services and primary and behavioral health care, and CRT provides services to the vulnerable, low-in-

come population.

The crisis team will give families an alternative to calling police if they’re concerned about a loved one’s behavioral or mental health, the mayor and Police Chief Jason Thody have said.

In addition to de-escalation, risk assessments and case management, the team will also be able to administer Narcan to people overdosing on opioids, help people with basic needs like clothes, food

and shelter, and transport people to clinics, shelters and other service providers, according to the city’s request for proposals.

The city has budgeted \$5 million in surplus funds to create the corps of professional responders and scale it up over four years. Bronin introduced the idea in June 2020, amid local and national protests against racism and police violence

Turn to Deals, Page 2



Elizabeth Rangel and Giovanni Chetrancolo prepare food in the kitchen of El Sol Deli in Manchester. MARK MIRKO/THE HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS

Manchester’s newest Mexican eatery creates a niche for itself

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Main Street in Manchester has no shortage of Mexican restaurants. Mexico Lindo and Lucky Taco are just steps away from the newest eatery on the block, El Sol Deli, which opened in early November.

El Sol is a bit different, though. The 20-seat eatery is open every day at 7 a.m. selling traditional American breakfast foods and deli sandwiches alongside Mexican classics.

“Mexican food and sandwiches are served all day. Breakfast food is served all day,” said Elizabeth Rangel, who runs the restaurant owned by her father, Javier Rangel.

Javier Rangel, a roofer by trade, opened El Sol Deli in Stratford in early 2020. That location, run by Elizabeth Rangel’s sister and stepmother, powered through the pandemic and prospered.

Javier Rangel decided this year to open a

Customers can enjoy breakfast, lunch and classic Mexican dishes all day at El Sol Deli



The tortillas at El Sol Deli in Manchester are made from scratch by Elizabeth Rangel, who runs the restaurant.

satellite location when he found a recently vacated, fully built-out storefront at 631 Main St. in Manchester, where Johnson’s Seafood used to be.

Elizabeth Rangel runs the shop with her fiancé, Giovanni Chetrancolo. They live in Waterbury.

Also minding the store is a 5-foot-tall metal rooster. A similar rooster in the Stratford shop became a popular background for customers to take selfies.

“We wanted to have one, too,” Elizabeth Rangel said.

Elizabeth Rangel once worked at Pickle Barrel in Stratford. That deli experience made her an expert at making eggs, pancakes, French toast and deli sandwiches — pastrami, salami, four kinds of turkey, three kinds of ham — that now are the American half of her menu.

Her grandmother and father taught her

Turn to Eatery, Page 2

Panel targets mental health

Experts urge self-care, empathy to help deal with pandemic’s toll

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

With the pandemic in its 20th month, self-care along with concern for others is more essential than ever, mental health experts on a Simsbury Spirit Council panel said Wednesday night.

“I think the best advice is to make time for the things that matter most — the things that make you who you are, that keep you healthy and make you feel like life is worth living,” said Dr. Nicole Hill, a staff psychologist at the University of Hartford.

“We look at good self-care: Eating, sleeping and exercise are the fundamentals,” family therapist Marc Lehman of Avon said. “Most people have access to that: getting a good night’s sleep, trying to eat somewhat nutritiously, moving your body around. I don’t meet too many people who don’t have access to that.”

Lehman and Hill were among the panelists on the Simsbury Spirit Council’s “Let’s Talk” series on Wednesday night. The topic was how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone’s mental health, and how people can support one another.

The prolonged duration of the pandemic — along with mask guidelines, vaccination controversies, and the various financial and social ripple effects — has led to a sharp increase in Connecticut people seeking help for anxiety or depression, experts say.

The council focused its monthly online panel talk on the topic to explore different ways the pandemic has affected different groups. High school and college age students are a big part of the concern.

“Here we are going into the

Turn to Panel, Page 2

Man suspected in kidnapping tries, fails to flee into Canada

Christopher Constanzo, girl, 16, turned away due to lack of COVID-19 test

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Federal authorities in Vermont were holding a Connecticut man on a kidnapping charge Saturday, saying he abducted a girl from Torrington but failed to get

her across the Canadian border because both lacked proof of COVID-19 tests.

Parents of the 16-year-old girl who was with Christopher Constanzo when he was refused entry into Canada on Thursday morning had reported her missing Wednesday night. The girl told federal investigators that Constanzo raped her twice on the way from Connecticut through Vermont and had threatened her

with a knife, a federal affidavit says. U.S. authorities said the sexual assault complaints are under investigation.

The girl told investigators she met Constanzo, 19, of Torrington, through a mutual friend. She said she went with him voluntarily on Wednesday night, but that he sexually assaulted her in Connecticut about 9 p.m. and then forced her into the trunk of a Toyota Camry registered to her mother, keep-

ing her there until about 4 a.m. on Thursday, the federal affidavit says.

At some point in the night, the girl told authorities, Constanzo removed her from the trunk and raped her again, but she could not tell where they were, the affidavit says.

Constanzo had restrained the girl with a shoelace, authorities said, and kept the tie on her when he removed her from the trunk and placed her in the back seat. He

moved her to the front seat as they neared the border, authorities said. Surveillance video inside a convenience store in the greater Burlington area shows a man resembling Constanzo at the counter about 3:40 a.m. Thursday, Vermont police said.

During the trip from Connecticut through Vermont, Constanzo used the girl’s cellphone, sending

Turn to Flee, Page 2



Hartford Courant

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Gift Giveaway

Kwanzaa mural joins seasonal art displays on Pratt

Three Kings Day piece set to be installed soon

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Pratt Street in Hartford comes alive with holiday murals and decorations every December. This year, shoppers and strollers will notice two new holidays, which colorfully reflect the racial and cultural diversity of the capital city: Kwanzaa and Three Kings' Day.

David Jackson of Bristol painted the Kwanzaa artwork on the windows at 54 Pratt St., where Rio Grill and Bar used to be. The mural shows a ribboned box opened and unleashing a rainbow of red, green, black and gold, which forms into a quilt covered with Kwanzaa symbols.

"The box symbolizes gift giving. Throughout Kwanzaa people give each other gifts, usually handmade," Jackson said. "The quilt is an homage to Connecticut's great quilter Ed Johnetta Miller, to tap into that history and legacy of African American quilting."

Kwanzaa, which is Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, is a holiday founded in 1966 by Maulana Karenga. It celebrates African American history and culture and



has as its foundation seven essential principles: unity, self-determination, work and responsibility, economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

"I grew up with a traditional Christmas upbringing, but I became familiar with Kwanzaa and my family has celebrated for quite a few years now," Jackson, 36, said. "My art has become rooted in what it means to be African American, how to journey through that culture."

Chip McCabe of Hartford Business Improvement District, who organizes the holiday displays every year, realized in 2020 that

the decorations were too narrowly focused.

"We had nondenominational Christmas ones, winter-themed ones, G Fox ornaments; we had Chanukah. We realized after the fact that we did not go a good job representing some of the other winter holidays, Kwanzaa being one of them," McCabe said. "We decided to share the love."

McCabe sought out Kamora Herrington of Kamora's Cultural Corner in Hartford, who recommended Jackson based on his work with her Black Art Heals initiative. HBID bought the paint and mate-

rials for Jackson, and KCC paid him \$525 for his work.

"A lot of his work is very collage-ish, but it tells a story. There are many different images in there to guide you through an idea, a story, a thought," Herrington said. "His conceptual art invites you into the idea of learning more about Kwanzaa on your own."

A Three Kings Day display, either a mural or a three-dimensional artwork, also will be installed in the coming weeks, McCabe said. The artist is to be determined. Three Kings, or Día de Reyes, is a beloved tradition in the city's Puerto



Among the holiday decorations up now on Pratt Street in Hartford is a Kwanzaa mural, left, by David Jackson, above. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS

Rican community, celebrating Epiphany, the day the magi arrived at the manger where Jesus was born.

Three Kings Day is Jan. 6. The decorations will be up until then, McCabe said.

Since he was a child, Jackson's artworks always have included landscapes, seascapes and florals. A mentorship with artist Donald Blanton got him interested in depicting the African American experience. His gallery on his website, classicjacksonarts.com shows portraits of Black icons such as Marcus Garvey, Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, Billie Holiday, Arthur Ashe, Louis Armstrong and others.

Jackson majored in philosophy, and minored

in sociology, at UConn, and got a master's in management from the University of Saint Joseph. Jackson uses his psychology background to help give life to his artwork and to guide him in his career. He is an independent counselor who works with college students who are from families that are not traditionally education-oriented.

"I advise on college prep and access to resources. I want to help them find their voice post-secondary education, to help them express their dreams and goals and help them to find a new passion," he said.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Deals

from Page 1

and calls for cities to redirect law enforcement spending to other community and social services.

The city later said it wanted to launch Hartford Community Responders as early as July 2021, a goalpost that's now pushed to January.

An online portal for bid opportunities in the city shows only three applicants to run Hartford Community Responders: Community Renewal Team, The Village for Families and Children and Latino Community Services.

Wheeler Clinic is not listed. Other prospective bidders included Hispanic Health Council, InterCommunity Inc., and the Latin Enrichment Organization. Kaza said the city contacted the Wheeler Clinic because it was uniquely qualified to treat juveniles in Hartford because of its work with 211 and Hartford Public Schools.

In 2020, Hartford police were sent to more than 11,000 calls for people in emotional distress. The city estimates that half of those calls could be handled by a professional civilian, such as a social worker trained in de-escalation, risk assessments and case management.

Dispatchers will not send the responders to any calls that pose a danger to them or the public.

Capitol Region Mental Health will also continue responding to certain calls where people are experiencing acute distress, though the state-run agency has limited hours and resources.

Eatery

from Page 1

to cook the other dishes, in the style of Javier Rangel's hometown in Michoacan. Elizabeth Rangel has prepared these for years, for gatherings of her extended family.

"I have so many cousins, about 30. We're all about the same age. I've cooked for them all," she said.

The setup in Manchester is different than Stratford, where a quick-serve counter sells from pre-made trays of specials of the day. In Manchester, all food is made to order.

Mexican offerings include burritos, tacos, sopes, quesadillas, tortas and enchiladas, filled with a choice of chicken, chorizo, steak, carnitas and el pastor. Lengua and shrimp tacos are sold, as well as chicken or cheese flautas, Cuban sandwiches and nachos, as well as three Mexican-style egg breakfast dishes.

Elizabeth Rangel makes her own tres leches cake

in house and tortillas from scratch. Beverages include Mexican cola and Fanta, Sidral Mundet apple soda and Jarritos.

Elizabeth Rangel grew up in Bridgeport after her family moved there from New York state. Inspired by her enterprising dad, she took courses in entrepreneurship at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport. So she is well-prepared to run the Manchester location. She is, like many other restaurateurs, looking to hire more staff. With her, however, the clock is ticking.

"I'm pregnant. I'm due in February. I'll need someone by then to help out in the kitchen," she said.

El Sol Deli, 631 Main St. in Manchester, is open weekdays 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. 860-783-8856.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Panel

from Page 1

winter, cases are on the rise; the omicron variant is making itself known. A lot of people are vaccinated, but it's not like we're at the tail end of this any more like I used to think," Spirit Council co-chair Nicole Kodak said.

The council and the Simsbury Public Library, cosponsors of the Let's Talk series, arranged the talk by Hill and Lehman along with Farmington Valley Health Director Jennifer Kertanis and Dr. Melissa Santos, division head of pediatric psychology at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

In a talk with The Courant before the panel discussion, Hill and Lehman said they've seen a steep increase in the number of young adults seeking counseling or therapy.

"We seeing depression, anxiety, and you can add addiction to the conversation," said Lehman, who specializes in treating young adults. "There's a

population I call subacute — they don't meet all the criteria for a diagnosis of depression or anxiety, but they're starting the develop the characteristics. There's the classic kid who is always out and about, socializing with their family — but now they're hidden in their room and the parents don't know why.

"They used to be very verbal, now they give you one-word answers. They used to admonish their friends that use substances, but now they're not doing that.

"I talked with a college freshman this morning about this. I and asked, 'Do you have any friends who,' and I couldn't finish the sentence — she jumped in saying, 'I have so many friends who are suffering and don't know where to get help.'"

Lehman recommended concerned parents start a conversation about the self-care fundamentals. Friends or roommates who are worried should perhaps approach the topic less directly, maybe by sharing a self-care meme and

a low-key message like, "I saw this on my feed and thought it was interesting," Lehman said.

Hill said college therapists are getting many more referrals than usual.

"What's been really difficult is the loss of socialization: Students have been so limited in social interactions and the ability to create meaningful, close relationships," she said. "A lot of learning has been virtual, so students are feeling socially inept and disconnected about everything from meeting new people to exploring new to sexual awareness. We're seeing sophomores and juniors who really feel like freshmen."

Hill said parents and friends should know that many students won't need full-scale counseling or long-term therapy, but need help now.

"We want to be careful about not pathologizing everything or assuming everyone has been irreparably traumatized," she said. "We're also seeing a lot of resilience.

Flee

from Page 1

messages pretending to be her, federal officials said. As they approached the crossing at Highgate Springs, Vermont, Constanzo told the girl to "act normal" and "go along with the story," the affidavit says. He told Canadian border officials at the Saint-Armand Philipsburg crossing that the girl was his sister and they planned to visit

friends in Canada and stay for about four days, U.S. officials said. But Canadian officials turned them away because both lacked proof of COVID-19 tests, U.S. officials said.

Back on the U.S. side, customs and border officials separated Constanzo and the girl, and she told them he had kidnapped and raped her, the affidavit says. A knife was found on Constanzo, officials said. In the 2007 Camry, investigators found a shoe without

a lace, a single shoelace in the back seat and strands of hair in the trunk that appeared to match the girl's hair, authorities said. She was taken to a hospital in St. Albans, Vermont, for a sexual assault examination, authorities said.

Torrington police could not be reached on the status of their investigation, but a federal motion for detention says city police were investigating a sexual assault complaint against Constanzo by another

victim from July. A search warrant had been issued on Nov. 22 for an electronic device associated with that case, suggesting that Constanzo may have been fleeing the country to avoid arrest, U.S. officials said in the detention motion.

"Further, there are troubling similarities between the events described by the victim of the July 2021 assault and the events described by the victim in this case," the motion says, "including the defendant's

use of a knife to threaten the victims with harm in both instances and the defendant's threats to hurt the victims' family members if the victims spoke about the incidents."

Constanzo was being held pending a hearing set for Tuesday at 1 p.m. in U.S. District Court in Burlington. He was assigned a public defender.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com.

PETS UP FOR ADOPTION



Heather

Heather was an outdoor cat who had many pregnancies. She was finally rescued and spayed. She is so happy to be inside where she is safe and warm. She was a wonderful mommy to all her kittens, and now she would love a home of her own. She is a very affectionate, 5-year-old muted calico who loves attention. Heather is laid-back and has so much love to give. Please adopt Heather today. If interested, go to CatTalesCT.org/cats/heather or call 860-344-9043 or email info@CatTalesCT.org.



Hunter

Hunter is a laid-back, loveable, very affectionate sweetheart. Spending time in a lap, getting petted and brushed, makes him very happy. This very gentle senior tabby has lots of love to give. If you'd like more information on making sweet, 17-year-old Hunter part of your life, please contact Our Companions at 860-242-9999 or email Helpline@OurCompanions.org.



Walter

Walter is a 6-year-old, extremely friendly tabby male. He is hoping to find a home with a family that will give him the love and care he deserves. He is up to date on vaccinations and was given a clean bill of health. If interested, call AFOC at 860-693-0303.

For more information or to submit a pet for adoption, please email pets@courant.com.

Please include a photo, a description of the pet including age and personality, and contact information including an email address and a phone number.



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NOW PLAYING Reviews of movies showing
in theaters or streaming online

‘BENEDETTA’: The ecstatic agonies (or is it the agonizing ecstasies?) that have become the signature of legendary Dutch filmmaker Paul Verhoeven are on full display in his historical religious epic, “Benedetta,” a tale of sex, suffering and the sacrament. In Judith C. Brown’s 1986 book, “Immodest Acts,” detailing the life story of Sister Benedetta Carlini, Verhoeven has found a vessel for his interest in hypocritical systems of power and the ways that irrepressible sexuality can threaten to burn down those structures from the inside out. The outre “Benedetta” feels like the unholy love child of Verhoeven’s own “Black Book,” the tale of a Dutch Jewish woman (played by Carice van Houten) who seduced Nazis in service of the Resistance during World War II (and endured the humiliating torture that ensued), and Ken Russell’s controversial “The Devils,” in which Oliver Reed plays a priest who drives a convent of nuns mad with lust and finds himself the subject of religious persecution for pursuing a loving relationship with a woman. Verhoeven, who adapts Brown’s book with co-writer David Birke, positions the character of Benedetta as a powerfully commanding figure, but also a woman subject to the rules of patriarchal systems in early Renaissance Italy. 2:11. 3 stars. — *Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service*

‘C’MON C’MON’: Joaquin Phoenix has never been more engaging than he is in “C’mon C’mon.” The four-time Oscar nominee (and one-time winner) is at his warmest and most personable — characteristics not usually associated with the actor — in Mike Mills’ bighearted

drama, in which he plays a radio journalist working on a project about the way children see the world. Phoenix has been a steady presence in American film since he starred in “Space Camp” 35 years ago, but in “C’mon C’mon,” he shows a range and level of humanity that he has rarely showed before. His performance isn’t a revelation, but rather a reconfirmation that he’s one of the very best talents working in movies today. And “C’mon C’mon” is a lovely showcase for him. Mills, with just his fourth film (and first since 2016’s “20th Century Women”), paints an affectionate, poetic portrait of youth and wisdom, in a world where everybody is just trying to figure things out for themselves. Adults don’t have the answers any more than kids do, but they’re grown so they get to make most of the decisions. And hopefully the ones they make are correct. 1:49. 3 ½ stars. — *Adam Graham, Detroit News*

‘ENCANTO’: The latest Disney Animation film, “Encanto,” sweeps audiences away to a colorful, enchanted world of Colombian magical realism, introducing the Madrigal family, who have each been granted extraordinary gifts, except one, our heroine, Mirabel (Stefania Beatriz), who has yet to discover her own personal magic. The Madrigal family magic was borne out of extreme trauma and pain, when matriarch Abuela Alma (Maria Cecilia Botero) lost her husband while fleeing violence in their village. In desperation, she cried out for protection for herself and her infant triplets, and a magical candle raised mountains around a charmed casita, where she’s raised

her family since. Each Madrigal receives a gift in a coming of age ceremony, whether it’s super strength, high-powered hearing, talking to animals, spinning flowers out of thin air, shape-shifting, future divining, weather controlling or food healing. The only exception to the magical rule so far is the sweet, smart Mirabel, who never received her gift, and has since felt like the family outcast, bending over backward to earn her place among them. As she starts to see cracks in the foundation of their beloved casita, Mirabel probes deeper in to the family’s magic and ultimately realizes that all of her family members are caught in the trap of perfectionism, believing that they have to use their gifts in the ways others want them to, without remaining authentic to themselves and their desires. 1:39. 3 stars. — *Katie Walsh*

‘GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTER-LIFE’: “Ghostbusters: Afterlife” is indeed haunted. But it’s not just the likes of Muncher and the Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man that need to be zapped into proton packs. This film is haunted by the specter of the legacy of the 1984 “Ghostbusters,” which isn’t just lurking around the edges but literally baked into its DNA. “Ghostbusters: Afterlife” brings a new family into the ghostbusting dynasty, which includes a single mom, Callie (Carrie Coon), and her two kids: brainy tween Phoebe (Mckenna Grace) and gawky teen Trevor (Finn Wolfhard of “Stranger Things”). Anyone with even the most casual passing interest in “Ghostbusters” can see where this family story is going. 2:04. 1 ½ stars. — *Katie Walsh*

‘HOUSE OF GUCCI’: For director Ridley Scott, “House of Gucci” is an entertaining if dramatically thin return to the fact-based machinations of the rich, famous and weaselly. Sometimes they’re criminal underworld tales, such as “American Gangster” (2007); other times, as with the 2017 Getty kidnapping account “All the Money in the World,” they’re criminality-adjacent, more about the ruthlessness of the crazy-rich. This movie’s a bit of both. It’s bit-of-both in other ways, too, swinging from straight-faced drama to opera buffa extravagance. Lady Gaga, representing the former, co-stars with, among others, Jared Leto (the latter). However, Gaga’s the star and driver in “House of Gucci.” The high-gloss and even higher-fashion festival of backstabbing stars Gaga as the woman whose controversial business practices after marrying into the Gucci fashion dynasty included hiring a hit man to deal with her pesky, cheating husband. 2:37. 2 ½ stars. — *Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune*

‘LICORICE PIZZA’: Gary Valentine is almost famous. This enterprising hustler parlays his demi-fame into a kind of accidental-on-purpose mystique, that of a 15-year-old LA whiz kid, with one foot in the Industry as a child actor and the other in whatever he’s cooking up at the moment. “Licorice Pizza,” writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson’s gloriously hazy hangout of a movie, starts from the premise of this San Fernando Valley high schooler putting his idea of “the moves” on 25-year-old Alana. She works as a photographer’s assistant. He first spies her when



Cooper Hoffman, left, and Alana Haim in writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson’s “Licorice Pizza.” **MGM**

he’s in line for picture day. Their queasy age difference makes Gary’s ardor, in Alana’s eyes, a foolish delusion. Yet Alana — as played, indelibly, by Alana Haim of the Grammy-nominated sisters band Haim — finds herself weirdly charmed by this boy/man. Pretty soon she’s hanging out with his friends, accompanying him as an adult chaperon on a movie promotional trip to New York, all the while yearning for her own niche in life with actual adults. 2:13. 3 ½ stars. — *Michael Phillips*

‘THE POWER OF THE DOG’: The gorgeous Otago region of New Zealand makes for one hell of a 1925 Montana in “The Power of the Dog,” the first feature written and directed by Jane Campion since “Bright Star” 12 years ago. This adaptation of the 1967 Thomas Savage novel is worth seeing, and arguing with, for several reasons. It’s a chamber Western, focused on four main characters, and those warring personalities

are played by the exactly right quartet of Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons and Kodi Smit-McPhee. The environment these forlorn souls call home works like a spacious dream of the Old West, shortly after it has given way to 20th century notions of progress. For Campion, the personifications of Western heroism and toughness are practically indistinguishable from their own nightmarish distortions. “The Power of the Dog” lays out this theme pretty bluntly, in a story that can feel a mite thin. It’s also well worth your time because it imagines the time, place and people it’s about so intriguingly. Campion, cinematographer Ari Wegner, the entire design team knew what they wanted. And got it. 2:06. 3 stars. — *Michael Phillips*

RATINGS: The movies listed are rated according to the following key: 4 stars, excellent; 3 stars, good; 2 stars, fair; 1 star, poor.

CELEBRITIES

Producer: Cattrall not on revival radar

From news services

Much to the dismay of many die-hard “Sex and the City” fans, Kim Cattrall is not appearing on the revival — and was never even on the radar for it.

The show’s original showrunner Michael Patrick King — who’s also executive producing the “And Just Like That...” spinoff — said the new series was only supposed to revolve around three main characters: Carrie Bradshaw, Miranda Hobbes and Charlotte York.

Cattrall portrayed Samantha Jones on the entire premium cable run of “Sex and the City” and its subsequent two movies. The British actor, 65, has famously sworn off reprising her character.

“It never was on the radar as four because Kim Cattrall, for whatever reason, didn’t want to play Samantha anymore while we were doing the (third) movie,” King recently revealed.

While a script was created for a proposed third film, Cattrall — with a long-simmering riff with “Sex and the City” star Sarah Jessica Parker, who plays Carrie — reportedly told producers to report her out. Plans for the third film never materialized. And King understood that it was unlikely that any future “Sex and the City” project would feature Cattrall.

“I never thought, ‘Oh, there’s a hole I have to fill,’” he told The Hollywood Reporter. “Samantha doesn’t not exist in their lives. (And Just Like That...) was born of these three characters: What’s their life, and who can I bring in to inform it?” “And Just Like That...” debuts Thursday.

Bad Bunny most streamed artist on Spotify: Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny



Kim Cattrall was reportedly never considered for the “Sex in the City” spinoff. **ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY 2019**

led all artists worldwide with more than 9.1 billion streams on Spotify in 2021, the music service recently announced.

The company didn’t release every individual performer’s streaming totals, but said Bad Bunny’s lofty number of listens was enough to surpass Taylor Swift, who finished second on the global ranking.

The third-through-fifth most streamed artists in the world this year were BTS, Drake and Justin Bieber, respectively.

Drake was Spotify’s most streamed artist in the U.S., followed by Swift and late rapper Juice WRLD.

Olivia Rodrigo’s hit “Drivers License” was the most streamed song both globally and in the U.S. The song garnered more than 1.1 billion streams this year.

“The Joe Rogan Experience” was the year’s most streamed podcast on Spotify, both in the U.S. and globally.

Harvey to preside over courtroom: Steve Harvey is headed to court again — but not as a defendant.

The Emmy Award-winning funnyman will be the one banging the gavel as he presides over the courtroom in the upcoming show “Judge Steve Harvey.” The unscripted legal comedy series will premiere Jan. 4 on ABC.

“It’s always good to come to court when you can’t lose,” Harvey says in the teaser for the hourlong show.

Dec. 6 birthdays: Singer Helen Cornelius is 80. Actor James Naughton is 76. Singer Frankie Beverly is 75. Actor Tom Hulse is 68. Actor Kin Shriner is 68. TV host Wil Shriner is 68. Comedian Steven Wright is 66. Guitarist Peter Buck is 65. Director Judd Apatow is 54. Actor Lindsay Price is 45. Actor Ashley Madekwe is 38.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Husband puzzled by homemaker’s devotion

Dear Amy: My wife and I got married right after college and quickly welcomed our first child.

I knew that having kids would take all of my wife’s attention; therefore, I did not want any more children. But shortly after the first child came baby No. 2.

Twenty years later, I have built a very successful career, while my wife chose to take jobs that would allow her more time with the kids.

She has taken the lead with the kid’s activities, housework, cooking, etc., which I never asked her to do.

She has held various low-paying, “do good”-type positions in the community. She has a lot of skills and did not have to compromise her career for the children.

My wife has nothing to show for working year after year.

I am very resentful of her career choices and have expressed this many times. I think she is lazy.

Our kids are both in college now, and I am paying for all of it.

My wife has decided to pursue a second degree so she can increase her skills.

I told her that I would help her start a small business if she abandoned going back to school. She declined.

I do not feel obligated to pay for her education, which I could easily do. She is taking out student loans, but she will never be able to catch up to my salary. Am I being unreasonable for feeling so resentful toward her?

— *Resentful Husband*

Dear Resentful: Your anger over your wife’s choices

seems to have affected your cognition.

She has maintained the household and has raised (your) children, and yet because she has been underemployed outside the home, she has “nothing to show for it?”

How about healthy children and a husband who doesn’t have to iron his own shirts?

According to an oft-quoted report by Salary.com, in 2021 a stay-at-home parent works over 100 hours a week and would earn an annual “... fair market salary equivalent of \$184,820.”

The question is: Do you owe this amount to your “lazy” wife, or do you two have a zero balance, because she was living the life she chose?

You obviously feel trapped, stuck financially supporting a family that — according to you — takes your hard-earned assets and returns nothing.

Your wife should not be taking out student loans. Paying them back will deplete the gains she might see from her additional degree.

You two should immediately seek the help of a marriage counselor.

Dear Amy: I’m sharing my family’s holiday strategy in case someone else thinks it’s workable for their family.

We have had our own disagreements and hurt feelings over the years.

I remind everyone that the holidays are not about the hurt, but about celebrating together as a family. I tell them to keep their hurt and anger at home in “storage,” so that during family events they

can focus on fun and celebrating togetherness.

At Thanksgiving dinner, we each share what/who we’re thankful for.

At Christmas, we have the same requirement — to leave our “issues” at home.

I believe that we can choose to be above the squabbling for the holiday season and behave kindly toward one another.

— *Cathy S., in California*

Dear Cathy: I think of this as an easy-to-follow instruction manual for a truly great holiday gift: a positive focus on relationship-building.

Dear Amy: I’m responding to the letter from “Totally Confused Mom,” who has two adult daughters who won’t speak to her, claiming that they had terrible childhoods, and that one had suffered “trauma.”

You totally sided with these faux-victims. There is an epidemic of young people who, facing any adversity, claim they were “traumatized,” and blame the parents. I can’t believe you fell for this.

— *Outraged*

Dear Outraged: If parents don’t expose and prepare younger children for struggle, setbacks and failure, then as young adults they might perceive challenges as trauma.

On the other hand, any parent who believes they’ve provided their children with an ideal childhood needs to dig a little deeper.

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Film explores how Parks’ art, career changed lives of others

By Karla Peterson
San Diego Union-Tribune

Gordon Parks was the first Black photographer hired by Life magazine. He was a pioneering photo-journalist, a film director (“Shaft,” “The Learning Tree”), a bestselling novelist and a composer.

Parks was also a fighter. Whether he was photographing socialites, gangsters, civil rights icons or movie stars, Parks used his art as a megaphone, pulpit, magnifying glass and spotlight, all in an ongoing battle against prejudices and snap judgments.

Parks the fighter is the focus of “A Choice of Weapons: Inspired by Gordon Parks,” a new documentary that recently debuted on HBO and is streaming on HBO Max. The 90-minute film from director John Maggio is less interested in chronicling Parks’ life than it is in looking at the way his art and career changed other people’s lives.

Through interviews with famous devotees (filmmaker Ava DuVernay, sports icon Kareem Abdul-Jabbar); critics (Jelani Cobb of the New Yorker); and up-and-coming young photographers (Devin Allen, LaToya Ruby Frazier), “A Choice of Weapons” takes a deep and insightful dive into Parks’ groundbreaking body of work.

Parks died in 2006 at age 93. But for the artists and activists who followed in his footsteps, his seismic impact is as jolting as ever.

“He defined himself on his own terms,” says photographer Frazier, best known for “Flint is Family,” her 2016 photo essay on the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. “Those photographs are what enabled me to save my own life.”

By the time Life hired him in 1948, Parks had



Gordon Parks’ 1956 photograph of a Black family at a segregated drinking fountain is featured in the documentary “A Choice of Weapons: Inspired by Gordon Parks.”
GORDON PARKS/THE GORDON PARKS FOUNDATION/HBO

worked as an apprentice with the Farm Security Administration and as a correspondent for the Office of War Information. He had also photographed women’s fashion for Vogue magazine.

Parks was Life’s only Black photographer through times of segregation, racial strife and civil rights victories, and it was his ability to tell the diverse stories of Black Americans that made his work resonate far beyond the newsstand.

Park’s photo essays took on all of the issues and people of the day, including the ones not everyone wanted to talk about. That meant everything from discrimination and segregation in the deep South, to crime in the city from the side of the criminals and the police, the life of a Harlem family, the challenges of being Muhammad Ali, and the rise of the Black Muslim movement.

“It’s the idea of, ‘If I pick up my camera, I can say something and show something, and I will be heard, and it will be seen and a story will be told,’”

says Du Vernay.

In its determination to show as much of Parks’ work as possible, “A Choice of Weapons” cycles through images at a rapid clip. The documentary is at its best when it slows down long enough to let one of its experts linger over Parks’ genius for capturing emotionally charged moments with such intimacy.

Devin Allen was an aspiring photographer when his shot capturing a charged moment from Baltimore’s Freddie Gray protests in 2015 ended up on the cover of Time magazine. He learned about photography from poring over Parks’ books at Barnes & Noble. He speaks passionately about the way Parks tapped into Ali’s humor and humanity, and Parks’ ability to tell nuanced stories with no words at all.

“He could tell both sides of the story,” Allen says. “As the artist, we are the medium between opposing sides, and we are the only ones that can actually create that narrative and start a conversation.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): You’ve got a lot of raw energy right now, so go ahead and use it! There is a very high chance you’ll take home any prize available today. Something you’ve been working on for a long time may be ready to come to fruition.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Things might feel a little bit nebulous at the moment. Although you may usually prefer to deal with concrete and factual things in the here and now, today you’ve got cosmic clearance to get in the slow lane and coast along. You don’t have to do anything other than take it all in!

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Money is never a fixed entity, but your finances may be especially fluid today. Yes, there are simpler things you can do, such as spending or saving every penny you get. However, your money can do so much more for you. The important thing is to remember that you have lots of options.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): People might have a lot to offer you at the moment! You shouldn’t normally weigh everyone you know by what they can do for you, right now you can do so understanding just how much they enhance your life. You may realize there are some who truly do not enrich your life.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): The stars are highlighting the women in your life at this time, so if there’s a seasoned female figure in your life, whether she’s been a role model in your past or has a current idea of where you want to go, try to reach out! It’s a great day to contact someone you respect for any advice.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can make leaps and bounds on the professional front today. If you’ve been encountering roadblocks, have faith that those could soon begin to disappear. Even if you haven’t been chipping away at a major project, it won’t be surprising if you find a moment to shine.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Things could feel a little hectic around the house today, so if you need to find a moment to slip away, you shouldn’t feel any guilt about doing so. Life is about balance and compromise, often more than we’d like. While it’s important to be fair and understanding, that doesn’t mean it’s always easy.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You’ve probably had a lot to say in your life, even if you don’t actually voice every thought. While not every thought needs to be broadcasted, you can come up with some real gems when you put your mind to it. Take this day to mine your mind — think about how far you’ve come.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You could receive a major windfall today if you play your cards right. This may sound like a fairy tale or simple fantasy, but something you’ve been waiting on for a very long time might finally be ready to shape up and pay off. You’re likely going to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Being first in everything can be glamorous and exciting, but it might not be completely satisfying if, after a time, you’re still all up there alone. Today your time would be best spent on the most important people in your life, reminding them of how much they mean.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Opportunities may arrive when you least expect them, so if life seems a bit like a fairy tale today, don’t question it. A work matter or other project you’ve been chugging away at for a very long time could receive a huge boost from out of the blue. Try to keep up because you can go far right now!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Your sign isn’t known for being very competitive. Still, it wouldn’t hurt to blow your own horn today and make people aware of just how capable you are! That isn’t to say you should make an unnecessary fuss, but it might be time to finally step out on stage and put on a show.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Dec. 6, 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia from New York.

In 1889, the Mark Twain novel “A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court” was first published.

In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, abolishing slavery, was ratified.

In 1907, the worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurred as 362 men and boys died in a coal mine explosion in West Virginia.

In 1922, the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which established the Irish Free State, came into force.

In 1962, 37 coal miners were killed in an explosion at a mine operated by U.S. Steel in Pennsylvania.

In 1989, 14 women were shot to death at the University of Montreal’s school of engineering.

In 2007, President George W. Bush announced a plan to freeze interest rates on subprime mortgages held by homeowners.

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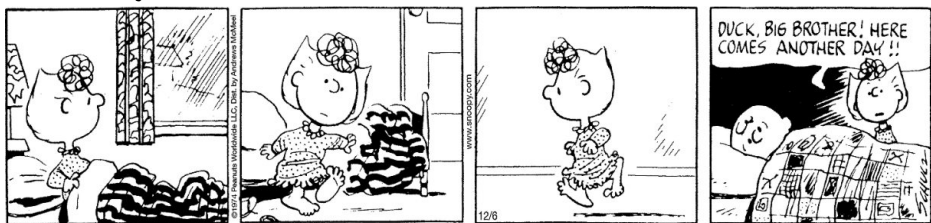
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SunSentinel

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



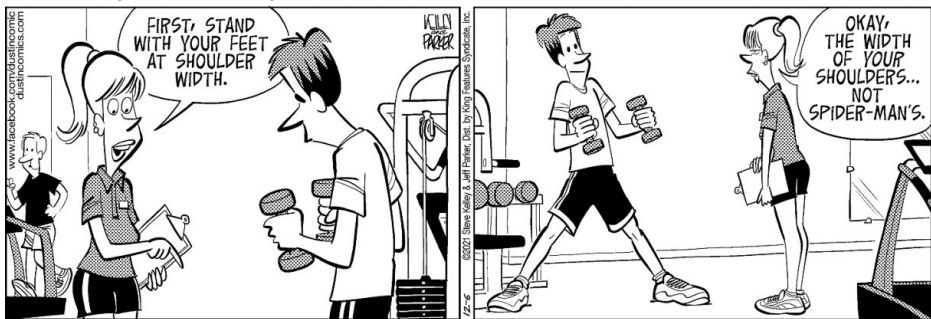
Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



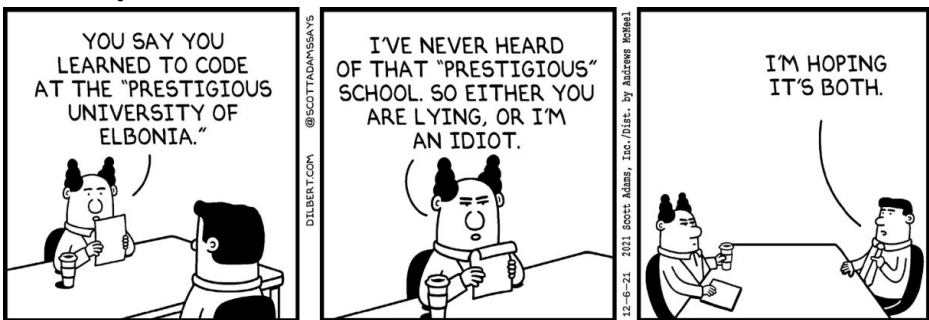
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



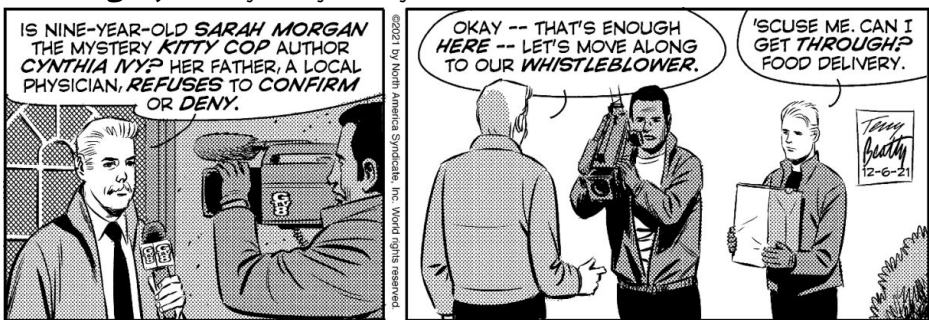
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



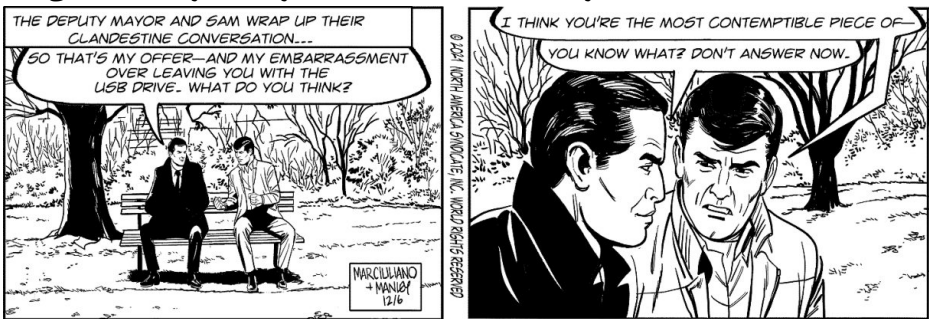
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



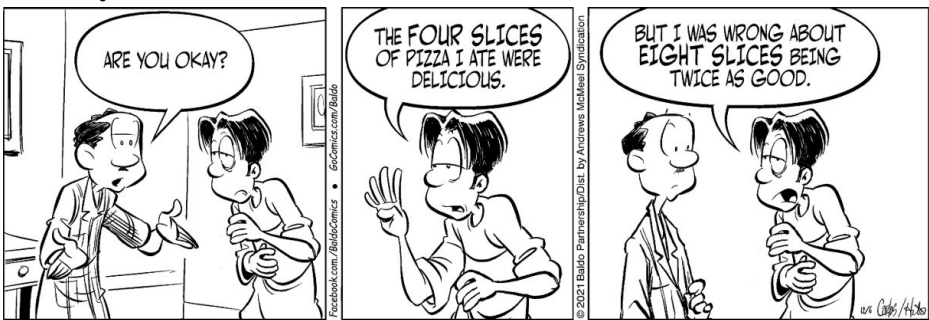
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



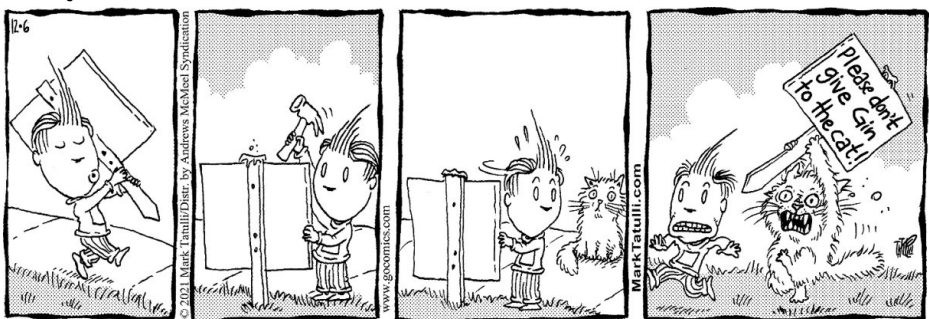
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



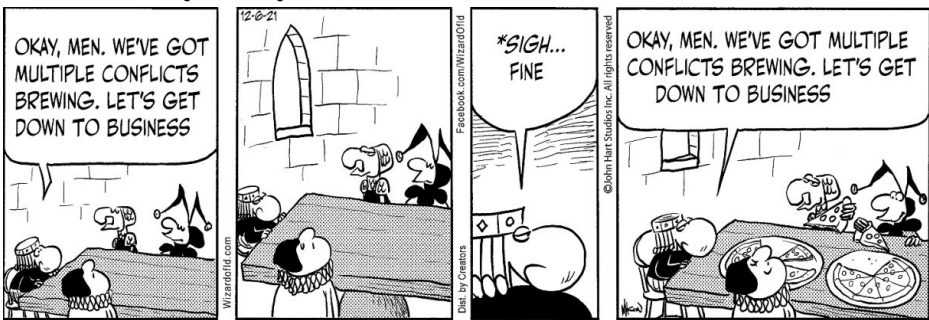
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



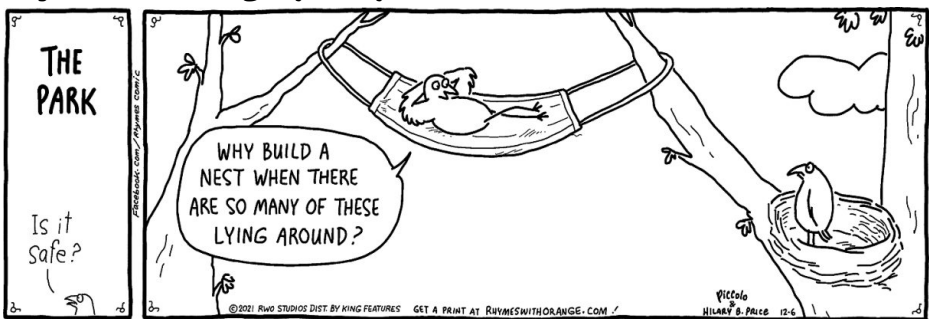
Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



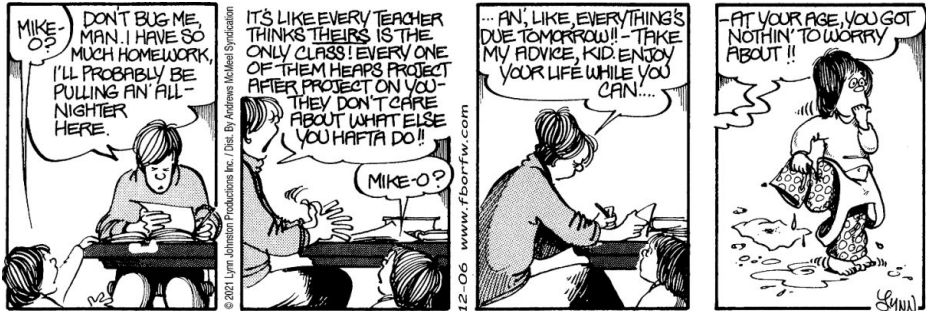
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



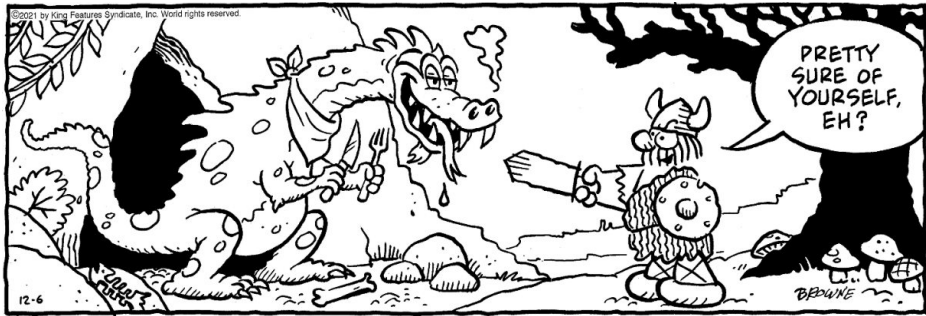
Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



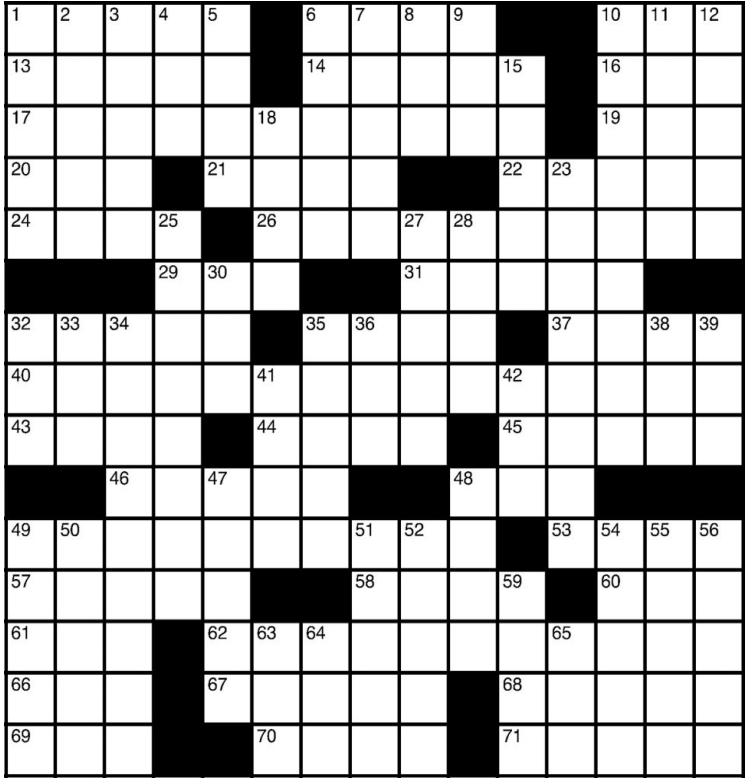
Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- Across**
- 1 Mexican dip
 - 6 Kitten-lifting spot
 - 10 "Notorious" Supreme Court justice, initially
 - 13 Gold miner's staked-out land
 - 14 Polishes, as text
 - 16 Botch the job, say
 - 17 *Cage for a bunny
 - 19 Actress Zadora
 - 20 Moody music genre
 - 21 __ Grey tea
 - 22 Wasn't feeling well
 - 24 Early bird's reward
 - 26 *Tool for filling in holes in the wall
 - 29 Blackjack card
 - 31 "Superman" actor Christopher
 - 32 Hooded snake
 - 35 Final Four org.
 - 37 Dutch cheese town
 - 40 *Bow users' musical ensemble
 - 43 "The jig __"
 - 44 Double-reed wind
 - 45 Trio in H2O
 - 46 Barnes' bookselling partner
 - 48 Italian three
 - 49 *Skin response to fear or cold
 - 53 Applies with a Q-tip
 - 57 Finance whiz Suze
 - 58 Christmas song
 - 60 Rapper __ Kim
 - 61 Oral health initials
 - 62 "C'mon, get serious!" ... and an admonition evidently ignored by the starts of
- Down**
- 1 Carpenter's fastener
 - 2 Mission to remember
 - 3 Materials partner on a repair bill
 - 4 Member of the fam
 - 5 Gallic girlfriend
 - 6 Indira Gandhi's father
 - 7 Grownup
 - 8 Racetrack stop
 - 9 And so on, briefly
 - 10 Answered, as an email
 - 11 Lawyer's filing
 - 12 Student's mark
 - 15 Ice cream drink
 - 18 Scotch or masking
 - 23 Played the market
 - 25 California county that contains parts of Yosemite National Park
 - 27 Copy on transparent paper
 - 28 "You betcha!"
 - 30 Recycle bin item
 - 32 CBS forensic series
 - 33 NFL tiebreakers
 - 34 Multiple Grammy winner featured on "Uptown Funk"
 - 35 Prize since 1901
 - 36 __-Magnon
 - 38 Vaccination spot
 - 39 More, in Madrid
 - 41 Game with putting
 - 42 Lend an __: listen
 - 47 Is flexible
 - 48 You, biblically
 - 49 Flip out
 - 50 Trial judge's demand
 - 51 Between, in French
 - 52 Like a designated driver
 - 54 Poe's middle name
 - 55 Ship's hull region
 - 56 More cunning
 - 59 Aspiring DA's exam
 - 63 Be obligated to
 - 64 "Don't delay!"
 - 65 Pre-marital (just barely) promise



By Kevin Christian and Andrea Carla Michaels Tribune Content Agency 12/6/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 10
♥ Q 10 6 5 4 3
♦ A K 6
♣ 8 6

WEST

♠ 6 3 2
♥ 8 7
♦ 9 8
♣ K 10 9 7 3 2

EAST

♠ A J 5 4
♥ A K J 9 2
♦ Q 10 3 2
♣ _

SOUTH

♠ Q 9 8 7
♥ _
♦ J 7 5 4
♣ A Q J 5 4

The bidding:
East South West North
2♣ 3♣ Dble Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

Famous hand

The scene was the annual European team championship, played in Amsterdam in 1955. The hand showed occurred when Norway met the Italian team. East-West were Mario Franco and Michele Giovine of Italy. They were playing the highly artificial Marmic system, and Franco's two-club opening showed a three-suited hand of 5-4-4-0 or 4-4-4-1 distribution.

The Norwegian South, correctly or not, decided to overcall with three clubs in hopes of stealing bidding space from his opponents before they could locate their best suit. Giovine, who did not understand or speak English well, then asked for a review of the bidding. Upon being reassured (in Italian) that South had actually bid three clubs, he licked his chops and doubled (in English), which was passed all around.

Declarer won the opening diamond lead in dummy and returned the king of spades to East's ace. When East then led the king

of hearts, South ruffed, cashed his queen of spades and trumped a spade in dummy. Declarer next ruffed another heart and led a low diamond to the ace.

At this point, seven tricks had been played, and South had won six of them. He still had the A-Q-J of trump, as well as the J-7 of diamonds and a spade. Giovine's last six cards were all trumps.

When declarer next played a heart from dummy and discarded his spade on it, West was forced to ruff and return a trump to South's jack. Declarer then exited with a diamond, again forcing West to ruff and return a trump into the A-Q. As a result, South made three clubs doubled!

At the other table, the Italian South also ended up in three clubs. But because he wasn't doubled and didn't realize that West had all the missing trumps, he wound up down two.

Tomorrow: Steppingstone to success.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SAYET
RPWEI
NDYEOK
MRISEM

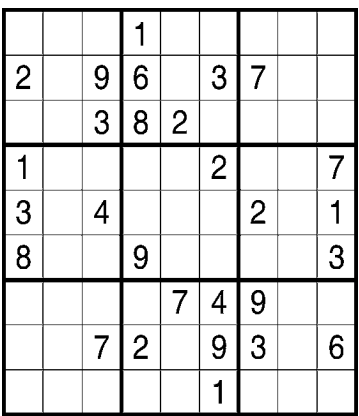


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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

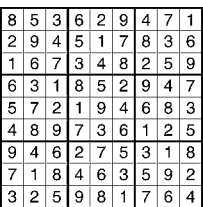
Answers tomorrow:
Saturday's Jumbles: WAFER CEASE ROOKIE POTATO
Answer: The large, glossy, black birds lived in Zagreb. To them, it was the capital of — "CROW-ATIA"

TODAY'S SUDOKU

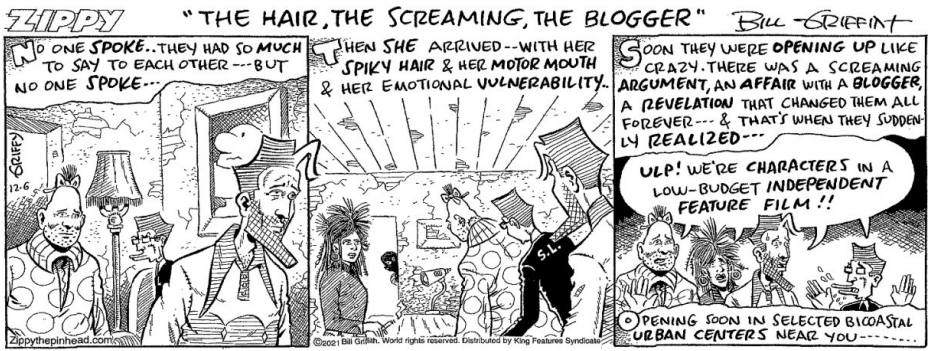
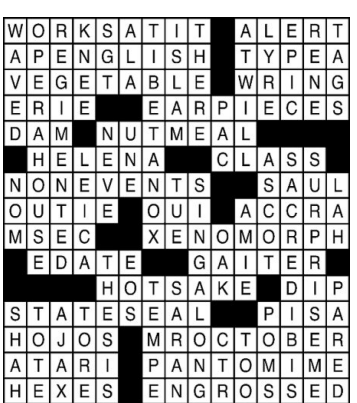


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

NO. 2 UCONN 73, NO. 24 NOTRE DAME 54

Huskies beat Irish on day honoring Olympians

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

As a new era of the UConn-Notre Dame rivalry began Sunday with Niele Ivey now at the helm of her alma mater, the Huskies prevailed over the Irish 73-54 with their second victory over Notre Dame in as many meetings, albeit in hardly the prettiest of games.

UConn committed a season-high 21 turnovers, Notre Dame's 2-3 zone defense giving them fits, but dominated the glass 45-32. A 14-0 edge in second-chance points in the first half was an early difference-maker.

Senior Olivia Nelson-Ododa did the grunt work in the first half, earning her first double-double of the season early in the third quarter. When she fouled out late in the fourth, she'd finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds (five offen-

sive), both season highs.

"Liv's put together some really solid performances, especially defensively and rebounding the ball," coach Geno Auriemma said. "I like how she's demanding the ball more, being more assertive"

When Notre Dame cut the deficit to seven going into the fourth, Caroline Ducharme's 14 fourth-quarter points, 10 more than she'd managed in her previous four games, put the Irish away for good. The freshman guard went 3-for-5 from the arc and showed aggression looking to get to the rim, making for the most promising performance of her young career and in Auriemma's eyes "changing the complexion of the game."

"Caroline made me look stupid when I kept saying how well she was practicing and how excited I was for her," Auriemma said.

"And today, she kind of showed a glimpse of the things that she can do."

Sophomore Paige Bueckers (22 points) notched her fourth 20-point game of the season before going down with a non-contact left knee injury with 38 seconds remaining in the game. Auriemma said best-case scenario, she hyper-extended the knee.

Notre Dame was led by freshmen Sonia Citron (19 points) and Olivia Miles (eight points, eight assists), while senior Dara Mabrey hit a trio of 3s.

Neither team looked great most of the day, combining for 11 turnovers in the first quarter. UConn used a 7-2 run to pull ahead 16-12 at the end of the period, a stretch that started with Dorka Juhász hitting Nelson-Ododa for a layup, Nika

Turn to UConn, Page 4



UConn's Olivia Nelson-Ododa blocks the way for Notre Dame's Maya Dodson in the second half at Gampel Pavilion on Sunday. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

BLOOMFIELD 22, NEW FAIRFIELD 14



Bloomfield's Davien Kerr celebrates a touchdown with teammates during a 22-14 victory over New Fairfield in the Class S semifinals Sunday in Bloomfield. STAN GODLEWSKI/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Warhawks head to title game

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

BLOOMFIELD — Bloomfield's running backs Conellius Patrick and Dallas Rose have combined for almost 2,400 yards rushing this season.

But against New Fairfield's defense Sunday afternoon in the Class S football semifinals, the

Warhawks' dual threats struggled to gain yardage on the ground.

So top-seeded Bloomfield turned to the air, and its defense held strong against New Fairfield as the Warhawks (12-0) rallied from a first-half deficit to win 22-14 and return to the Class S championship game Saturday at Trumbull High at 11 a.m.

The game will be a battle of

unbeatens as Bloomfield will face No. 3 Cromwell/Portland, also 12-0, which was a 46-7 winner over third-seeded Ansonia in the other semifinal Sunday.

Bloomfield, playing for the program's 10th title, last won a Class S title in 2018 but lost to Sheehan in the 2019 championship game, 64-33.

"That hurt a little bit and then we

go into the COVID year [and didn't play], so it lasted a little longer than usual," said Bloomfield coach Ty Outlaw, who picked up his 100th career victory. "What we're trying to do is get that monkey off our back."

Bloomfield's freshman quarterback Darrien Foster threw two touchdown passes in the third quar-

Turn to Football, Page 2

COMMENTARY

Windsor refusing to go down, upends St. Joe's



Dom Amore

TRUMBULL — In a game with 66 points, with enough turnovers and big plays to fill a half-hour highlight show, it's not easy to pick a turning point.

But in this game where so much happened, it was remarkably easy to pick the defining moment.

Windsor, still down 10, desperately needed to move the sticks when quarterback Elijah Cromartie took off for the marker. Stopped short, he churned his legs like a bulldozer caught in mud, driving, driving, to keep a growing pile of players inching forward. The crowd in the small visitors' bleachers went wild with each inch until, 5 or 6 yards past the marker, the small battle-within-the-battle ended with a Warriors first down at the St. Joseph 35.

"I just noticed my team was pushing, pushing, pushing," said Cromartie, who came out of the pile limping and missing a shoe. "I wasn't going to go down. That just shows the heart of this team, how we work all day, every day."

That was the play that made clear to the outside world what Windsor folk seemed to know when they got off the buses. The Warriors weren't losing Sunday, no matter the obstacles, not the least of which was on the scoreboard at halftime. They rallied to beat top-seeded St. Joseph 35-3, in the Class L semifinals in Trumbull.

"He's a tough kid," Windsor coach Rob Fleeting said. "Sometimes he's so competitive he just forces things, but he's a tough kid. We have a lot of faith in him, and as long as he's on our side, we've got a

Turn to Amore, Page 2

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Akok finally steps up when his number is called

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

In a pivotal moment in his career, UConn men's basketball forward Akok Akok answered the call on Saturday afternoon at Gampel Pavilion.

The redshirt junior was given

the start against Grambling State with star Adama Sanogo out multiple weeks with an abdominal strain. Senior guard Tyrese Martin was also out multiple weeks with slight sprain and an avulsion fracture in his left wrist.

From tipoff, Akok played with a confident, infectious energy that

had been missing from him in much of this season. His hustle and defense helped UConn dismantle Grambling State with ease, 88-59.

In a game where much of the focus was on Jordan Hawkins and Isaiah Whaley, Akok showed how pivotal he is for the long-term success of the Huskies.

UConn head coach Dan Hurley urged his team to step up in their absence, specifically calling out Akok to provide more on the court.

"You've got to get in the game and make things happen," Hurley said in Friday's media availability.

Turn to Akok, Page 4



Safety Tip of the Day

Always inspect winter decorations for damage after a winter storm.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

Patriots: at Bills, Monday, 8:15 p.m.
Giants: at Chargers, Sunday, 4 p.m.
Jets: Saints, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: Big East-Big 12 Battle: at West Virginia, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Never Forget Tribute Classic: vs. St. Bonaventure (Newark, N.J.), Saturday, 3:30 p.m.; Providence (XL), Dec. 18, 5 p.m.
UConn WBB: at Georgia Tech, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Never Forget Tribute Classic: vs. UCLA (Newark, N.J.), Saturday, 1 p.m.; Basketball Hall of Fame Women's Showcase: vs. Louisville (Mohegan Sun Arena), Dec. 19, 3:30 p.m.
Celtics: at Lakers, Tuesday, 10 p.m.; at Clippers, Wednesday, 10:30 p.m.; at Suns, Friday, 10 p.m.
Knicks: at Spurs, Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.; at Pacers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Raptors, Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: at Mavericks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Rockets, Wednesday, 8 p.m.; at Hawks, Friday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at AIC, Thursday, 7 p.m.; AIC, Saturday, 3 p.m.; at Harvard, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Canucks, Wednesday, 9 p.m.; at Oilers, Thursday, 9 p.m.; at Flames, Saturday, 10 p.m.
Rangers: at Blackhawks, Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.; Avalanche, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Sabres, Friday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Belleville, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Lehigh Valley, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Lehigh Valley, Dec. 12, 3 p.m.

TV/RADIO BASKETBALL

7 p.m.: Illinois at Iowa. (Live) FS1
7 p.m.: Thunder at Pistons. (Live) NBA
FOOTBALL
8 p.m.: Patriots at Bills. (Live) ESPN
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Ducks at Capitals. (Live) NHL

SOCCER

10 a.m.: FIFA Arab Cup Syria vs Mauritania. (Live) FSP
2 p.m.: FIFA Arab Cup Qatar vs Iraq. (Live) FS1
TENNIS
6 a.m.: Florianópolis-ATP Challenger, Maia-ATP Challenger, Early Rounds. (Live) TENNIS
2:30 p.m.: Florianópolis-ATP Challenger, Early Rounds. (Live) TENNIS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

CIAC football state semifinals

Class S
Bloomfield 22, New Fairfield 14
Cromwell/Portland 46, Ansonia 7
Title game Saturday, 11 a.m., at Trumbull High School
Class M
Killingly 13, Branford 12
Rockville 42, Torrington 12
Title game Saturday, 3 p.m., at Veterans Stadium, New Britain
Class L
Windsor 35, St. Joseph 31
Maloney 45, Masuk 21
Title game Saturday, 11 a.m., at Veterans Stadium, New Britain
Class LL
Fairfield Prep 24, Shelton 3
Darien 24, New Canaan 10
Title game Saturday, 3 p.m., at Trumbull High School

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Williams carries Hartford past St. Francis-Brooklyn

Staff and wire reports

Austin Williams scored 22 points as Hartford broke its season-opening seven-game losing streak by beating St. Francis of Brooklyn 68-55 on Sunday afternoon in New York. Williams shot 10 for 13 from the field and added nine rebounds. Hunter Marks had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Hartford (1-7). Moses Flowers added 14 points and seven rebounds. He also had 10 turnovers and only two assists. David Shriver had five points and 12 rebounds. Trey Quartlebaum had 13 points for the Terriers, who have lost eight games in a row to start the season. Nick Folk added 11 points, while Patrick Emilien had 10 points and eight rebounds. Michael Cubbage, whose 12 points per game coming into the

matchup led the Terriers, was held to five points on 2-for-11 shooting. **Fairfield 81, Niagara 71:** Caleb Green scored 16 points as Fairfield got past Niagara in Niagara, N.Y. Zach Crisler had 14 points for Fairfield (5-3, 2-0 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference). Taj Benning added 13 points, and Jesus Cruz scored 11. Jordan Cintron had 14 points for the Purple Eagles (3-5, 0-2). Justin Roberts added 12 points, and Marcus Hammond had 11. **Quinnipiac 90, Manhattan 73:** Matt Balanc had a career-high 31 points as Quinnipiac topped Manhattan in a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference game in New York. Balanc shot 4 for 6 on 3-pointers and shot 13 for 15 from the line. Savion Lewis had 18 points and six rebounds for Quinnipiac (4-4,

1-1 MAAC). Tymu Chenery added 12 points, and Kevin Marfo had 10. Jose Perez had 25 points for the Jaspers (6-2, 1-1), whose four-game winning streak came to an end. Ant Nelson added 22 points. **Brown 79, Sacred Heart 66:** Paxson Wojcik scored 17 points as Brown defeated Sacred Heart in Providence. Nana Owusu-Anane had 12 points for Brown (7-4). Aaron Clarke tied a career high with 24 points for the Pioneers (3-6). Tyler Thomas added 18 points, and Nico Galetta had 10 points and eight rebounds.

Women

Northeastern 73, Hartford 53: Kendall Currence scored 21 points and Emily Calabrese had 14 points and eight rebounds as Northeastern

(6-2) handed the Hawks their eighth consecutive loss to start the season. The Huskies led 19-7 after the first quarter and were in control the rest of the way. Sophomore Marisa Lee led Hartford with 10 points, Carmen Villalobos had nine points and four steals, and Nina Farkic finished with eight points and eight rebounds. **Syracuse 116, CCSU 65:** Teisha Hyman had 27 points, 15 assists, 11 steals and eight rebounds to lead Syracuse (5-4) to a rout of visiting Central Connecticut (1-5). Chrislyn Carr scored 22 points, Christianna Carr had 17 and Alaysia Styles 16 for the Orange. The Blue Devils were led by Eden Nibbelink, who scored a career-high 17 points. Ashley Berube had 15 points and nine rebounds, and Forever Toppin had 10 assists for CCSU.

CIAC FOOTBALL SEMIFINALS

Cromwell/Portland rolls past Ansonia into title game

Hartford Courant

Unbeaten Cromwell/Portland defeated Ansonia 46-7 in a Class S football semifinal game Sunday at Pierson Park in Cromwell and will head to a state championship game for the first time in 10 years. Junior quarterback Cole Brisson had six touchdowns and passed for 500 yards, and wide receiver Teddy Williams caught five touchdown passes for Cromwell (12-0) and had nine catches overall for 332 yards. “Cole Brisson and Teddy Williams had absolutely monster games,” Cromwell/Portland coach

Randell Bennett said. “Our seniors carried in their last game at Pierson Park. That’s something we said a lot about in the last couple days: ‘This is your last game ever in Pierson Park forever.’ We let them know, ‘This is your lasting impression on this field.’ It’s a pretty cool way to go out.” Cromwell will face Bloomfield, also unbeaten, on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Trumbull High in the championship game. **Rockville 42, Torrington 12:** Behind four touchdowns from Travon Edmondson, the Rams (10-2) reached their first state title game since 1995 with a Class M

semifinal home win. Edmondson led the way offensively with 23 carries for 132 yards and the four TDs, including a long of 38 yards. Matt Ryan and DeShaun Perry connected for two passing TDs and Amir Knighton added 152 yards rushing on eight carries. Malachi Mapp had 14 tackles, including three for loss, to lead the Rockville defense that held Torrington (8-4) to just two scores. Henry Tyus Jr. added 10 tackles and an interception. Rockville will face Killingly in the Class M title game Saturday at 3 p.m. at Veterans Stadium in New

Britain. **Maloney 56, Masuk 21:** Joziah Gonzalez scored three times to send the Spartans to an All-CCC Class L championship game. Gonzalez caught six passes for 118 yards and two touchdowns and scored again on a 53 yard punt return. Maloney (11-1) won despite quarterback Angel Arce leaving the game with an injury as a precaution. Arce finished 12-for-15 for 188 yards and two touchdowns. The Spartans will face Windsor at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Veterans Stadium.

Football

from Page 1

ter, one to Davien Kerr and the other to his twin brother Davion. Fourteen seconds after the second touchdown pass, which put Bloomfield up 15-14, Howard Simpson picked up a fumble on New Fairfield’s next play and brought it into the end zone for another Bloomfield touchdown. Bloomfield’s defense also came up big in the second half with New Fairfield on the Bloomfield 2-yard-line with 10 minutes left in the game. On third-and-goal, Jakar Jenkins sacked New Fairfield quarterback Justin McCormack and on the next play, Patrick did the same thing and the ball was turned over on downs. On the next New Fairfield series, there was another fumble and Bloomfield recovered the ball and with New Fairfield driving again late in the game, Davion Kerr had an interception with 3:06 left. “It was shaky in the first quarter and the second, but we turned it around in the second half,” Davion Kerr said. “We started playing aggressive. We stayed together as a team.” Patrick and Rose combined for 42 yards in the first half, and the Warhawks struggled to get their offense going against New Fairfield’s defense. “That’s a real tough team,” Outlaw said. “They stacked that



Bloomfield’s Dallas Rose intercepts a pass during the Class S semifinals against New Fairfield on Sunday in Bloomfield. **STAN GODLEWSKI/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

box, and they played hard. We were trying not to make any major mistakes and they were, too. They took away our run game, kinda sorta, and we had to do something else. They made it hard on us, but I felt like we did the same thing to them.” New Fairfield led 7-2 at halftime after a 54-yard touchdown

pass from McCormack to Ryan Fata, and Bloomfield scored on a safety. Bloomfield came out charged up in the second half, with Davion Kerr returning the kickoff 40 yards. Rose had a 32-yard run in the series, capped by Foster’s touchdown pass, which gave Bloomfield a 9-7 lead. McCormack came

right back and scored on a 7-yard keeper, but Foster countered with a 10-yard pass to Davion Kerr to put Bloomfield back up again, 15-14. The fumble recovery gave the Warhawks a solid lead, but they had to hold off New Fairfield throughout the fourth quarter. “They played great,” Outlaw said of his defense. “They’ve been play-

Amore

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chance.” Cromartie, the emerging junior star, threw three interceptions, but in the end he threw for 207 yards and four touchdowns, two to Prince Samuels in the third quarter and, with 5:07 left in the game, a 7-yarder to Ray Rodriguez to put the Warriors over the top. “Eli’s a tough kid,” echoed Shawn Bell, who rushed 30 times for 140 yards. “He fights all the time. No matter how bad it gets, he’s always going to be with us. When it comes down to it, he’s always going to be right beside me.” “Tough kid” described Cromartie, and his teammates, better than any more grandiose phrase could have. This was a day when more than a berth in one of the four championship divisions was on the line all over the state. It was a day for statements, with teams representing not only their schools, but their leagues, the brand of football played in their neighborhoods. The schools from upstate, the Hartford area, raised their voices. Windsor, which lost to St. Joe’s 45-22 in the third week of the season, had a message ready to send. “Every day in practice, working, working, working for this



Elijah Cromartie says a postgame prayer after throwing three TD passes to beat St. Joseph in the CIAC Class L semifinals in Trumbull on Sunday. **DOM AMORE/HARTFORD COURANT**

moment,” Bell said. “We knew it since Week 3 we were going to get them again. We weren’t going to lose the second time.” Fairfield County schools dominated Class LL, but Bloomfield is back in the Class S final, to meet the Cromwell/Portland

co-op, which took down Ansonia and the decades of dominant Naugatuck Valley football it represents. Windsor will face Maloney-Meriden, the winner over Masuk-Monroe. In Class M, Rockville reached a state final for the first time since 1995 and will

play Killingly. Windsor (11-1), a playoff regular since 2014, needs no introduction, and certainly not in a week in which alum Tyler Coyle debuted with the Cowboys, joining classmate Jason Pinnock in the NFL, and the town’s 14-and-under team made the Pop Warner national semifinals. They play football in Windsor, and on Sunday, following an embarrassingly easy quarterfinal win over Cheney Tech, they played it with an attitude that moved mountains, at least a mountain of players. St. Joseph, with its 15 state titles, qualifies as a mountain on the state football landscape, having won 10 consecutive post-season games before this one. Maxwell Warren, who scored three TDs against Windsor on Sept. 24, had four in the first half this time, one on a lateral pass he dropped, picked up and then ran 70 yards. The kid can even score off the dribble. St. Joe’s intercepted Cromartie twice last time, and three more times on Sunday. Windsor, despite Achillius Williams’ 95-yard kickoff return and Cromartie’s 47-yard TD pass to Jaevion Walcott, went to the locker room trailing, 31-13. Fleetingly coached it his way, no yelling, just a re-affirming of the game plan he believed in. Cromartie would refocus on run-pass options.

“During the half, my teammates said, ‘Pick your head up. Pick your head up,’” Cromartie said. “‘We’ve got a whole ‘nother half.’ I realized I’ve got my brothers and we came out killing it.” The Warriors scored on their first possession of the half, a fabulous catch by Samuels, to stoke the embers. Then when they stopped St. Joe’s on downs, were on the march again. A few plays after Cromartie did his best Mark Bavaro imitation to keep the drive alive, he threw an 8-yarder yarder to Samuels. In the fourth, Rodriguez ran a punt back 45 yards to the St. Joe’s 20, and Cromartie found him for the winning score. “We had to motivate our QB, keep his confidence at a high,” Samuels said. “Because Eli, to me, that’s the best quarterback I’ve ever played with. We all know his potential. We all know that he’s great. Everybody did a good job getting his head back in the game and turning the game around.” In the meantime, Bell was punishing the opposition with hard running between the tackles and Windsor’s defensive line dominating, swamping St. Joe’s quarterback Matt Morrissey, who was sacked four times. “Coming into the half, we said, ‘We’re going to write a new story,’” Cromartie said. “‘It was our time. It was our destiny.’”

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	24	17	4	3	37	93	67		
Toronto	25	17	6	2	36	77	56		
Tampa Bay	24	15	5	4	34	81	65		
Detroit	25	13	9	3	29	71	78		
Boston	21	12	8	1	25	61	56		
Buffalo	24	8	13	3	19	70	90		
Montreal	26	6	17	3	15	59	93		
Ottawa	22	6	15	1	13	57	86		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Washington	25	15	4	6	36	88	62		
N.Y. Rangers	23	16	4	3	35	68	57		
Carolina	23	16	6	1	33	75	52		
Pittsburgh	24	11	8	5	27	69	67		
Columbus	23	13	10	0	26	76	75		
New Jersey	22	9	9	4	22	65	76		
Philadelphia	22	8	10	4	20	51	72		
N.Y. Islanders	19	5	10	4	14	36	58		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Minnesota	24	17	6	1	35	92	71		
St. Louis	24	12	8	4	28	80	70		
Nashville	24	13	10	1	27	68	68		
Colorado	21	12	7	2	26	85	71		
Dallas	21	12	7	2	26	60	58		
Winnipeg	23	11	8	4	26	68	65		
Chicago	23	8	13	2	18	51	73		
Arizona	24	5	17	2	12	43	89		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Calgary	24	15	4	5	35	79	48		
Edmonton	22	16	6	0	32	85	70		
Anaheim	25	13	8	4	30	84	65		
San Jose	25	13	11	1	27	66	68		
Vegas	23	13	10	0	26	78	71		
Los Angeles	22	9	9	4	22	59	62		
Seattle	24	9	13	2	20	72	84		
Vancouver	25	8	15	2	18	60	80		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Columbus 6, San Jose 4
Tampa Bay 7, Philadelphia 1
Chicago at N.Y. Islanders, late
Los Angeles at Edmonton, late
Toronto at Winnipeg, late
Calgary at Vegas, late

MONDAY'S GAMES
Anaheim at Washington, 7p.m.
Colorado at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Ottawa at New Jersey, 7p.m.
Arizona at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10p.m.
Pittsburgh at Seattle, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Columbus at Toronto, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Nashville at Detroit, 7p.m.
Tampa Bay at Montreal, 7p.m.
Anaheim at Buffalo, 7:30p.m.
Carolina at Winnipeg, 8p.m.
Florida at St. Louis, 8p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Chicago, 8:30p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9p.m.
Calgary at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Colorado at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7p.m.
Boston at Vancouver, 9p.m.
Dallas at Vegas, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Florida 4, St. Louis 3, SO
Washington 3, Columbus 1
Detroit 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT
Tampa Bay 3, Boston 2, OT
Nashville 4, Montreal 3, OT
Minnesota 4, Toronto 3, SO
Ottawa 6, Colorado 5, OT
Carolina 6, Buffalo 2
N.Y. Rangers 3, Chicago 2
Pittsburgh 4, Vancouver 1

SEASON LEADERS				
POINTS	PTS	TM	G	A
Leon Draisaitl	43	EDM	21	22
Connor McDavid	42	EDM	16	26
Alex Ovechkin	39	WSH	20	19
Nazem Kadri	30	COL	9	21
Jon. Huberdeau	29	FLA	8	21
Nathan MacKinnon	29	MIN	9	20
Evgeny Kuznetsov	28	WSH	8	20
Johnny Gaudreau	27	CGY	9	18
Mikael Granlund	26	NSH	5	21

BASEBALL

HALL OF FAME SELECTIONS
Golden Days Era Committee
Gil Hodges Jim Kaat
Minnie Miñoso Tony Oliva
Early Baseball Era Committee
Bud Fowler Buck O'Neil
They will join any selections from the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot, at the July 24, 2022, induction ceremony in Cooperstown, N.Y.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP WORLD GROUP FINAL SUNDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
Hard-Indoor, Group Round Robin
At Madrid Arena, Madrid, Spain
RUSSIAN FEDERATION 2, CROATIA 0
Andrey Rublev (RTF) d.
Borna Gojovic, (Croatia), 6-4/7-6(5)
Daniil Medvedev (RTF) d.
Marin Cilic, Croatia, 7-6(7), 6-2.
Aslan Karatsev / Andrey Rublev (RTF) vs. Nikola Mektic / Mate Pavic (Croatia), not played

RECENT WORLD CUP CHAMPIONS
2021: Russia2, Croatia 0
Caja Mágica (IH), Madrid, Spain
2019: Spain 2, Canada 0
Caja Mágica (IH), Madrid, Spain
2018: Croatia 3, France 1
Stade Pierre-Mauroy (IC), Lille, France
2017: France3, Belgium 2
Stade Pierre-Mauroy (IH), Lille, France
2016: Argentina 3, Croatia 2
Arena Zagreb (IH), Zagreb, Croatia
2015: Great Britain 3, Belgium 1
Flanders Expo (IC), Ghent, Belgium
2014: Switzerland 3, France 1
Stade Pierre-Mauroy (IC), Lille, France
2013: Czech Republic 3, Serbia 2
Kombank Arena (IH), Belgrade, Serbia
2012: Czech Republic 3, Spain 2
O2 Arena (IH), Prague, Czech Republic
2011: Spain 3, Argentina 1
Estadio de La Cartuja (IC) Seville, Spain
2010: Serbia 3, France 2
Belgrade Arena (IH) Belgrade, Serbia
2009: Spain 5, Czech Republic 0
Palau Sant Jordi (IC), Barcelona, Spain
2008: Spain 3, Argentina 1
Polideportivo Islas Malvinas (IH), Mar del Plata, Argentina
2007: U.S. 4, Russia 1
Memorial Coliseum (IH) Portland, Or., U.S.
2006: Russia3, Argentina 2
Olympic Stad. (ICp), Moscow, Russia

GOLF

PGA HERO WORLD CHALLENGE		
Albany Golf Course,New Providence, Bahamas, 7,302 yards; Par: 72		
270 (-18)	\$1,000,000	
Viktor Hovland	68-69-67-66	
271 (-17)	\$375,000	
Scottie Scheffler	71-68-66-66	
273 (-15)	\$187,500	
Sam Burns	71-65-68-69	
Patrick Reed	68-69-67-68	
274 (-14)	\$127,500	
Justin Thomas	67-72-71-64	
Collin Morikawa	68-66-64-76	
275 (-13)	\$114,000	
Tony Finau	68-66-70-71	
Daniel Berger	66-69-69-71	
277 (-11)	\$110,333	
Justin Rose	71-70-70-66	
Tyrell Hatton	69-67-71-70	
Brooks Koepka	67-67-69-74	
278 (-10)	\$107,500	
Xander Schauffele	70-70-70-68	
Matt Fitzpatrick	71-70-68-69	
280 (-8)	\$105,000	
Abraham Ancer	66-73-72-69	
Harris English	75-70-63-72	
Bryson DeChambeau	69-64-73-74	
281 (-7)	\$103,000	
Webb Simpson	67-72-71-71	
282 (-6)	\$102,000	
Rory McIlroy	66-71-75-70	
289 (+1)	\$101,000	
Henrik Stenson	72-75-70-72	
294 (+6)	\$100,000	
Jordan Spieth	71-72-75-76	

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	16	7	.696	—
Boston	13	11	.542	3 ½
Philadelphia	12	11	.522	4
New York	11	12	.478	5
Toronto	11	13	.458	5 ½
SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	14	10	.583	—
Washington	14	10	.583	—
Charlotte	14	11	.560	½
Atlanta	12	12	.500	2
Orlando	5	19	.208	9

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	16	8	.667	—
Milwaukee	15	9	.625	1
Cleveland	13	11	.542	3
Indiana	9	16	.360	7 ½
Detroit	4	18	.182	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	13	10	.565	—
Dallas	11	11	.500	1 ½
San Antonio	8	13	.381	4
New Orleans	7	18	.280	7
Houston	6	16	.273	6 ½

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	16	7	.696	—
Denver	11	11	.500	4 ½
Minnesota	11	12	.478	5
Portland	11	13	.458	5 ½
Oklahoma City	6	16	.273	9 ½

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Golden State	19	4	.826	—
Phoenix	19	4	.826	—
L.A. Clippers	12	12	.500	7 ½
L.A. Lakers	12	12	.500	7 ½
Sacramento	10	14	.417	9 ½

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Utah 109, Cleveland 108
Charlotte 130, Atlanta 127
Toronto 102, Washington 90
New Orleans at Houston, late

MONDAY'S GAMES
Oklahoma City at Detroit, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Washington at Indiana, 7p.m.
Memphis at Miami, 7:30p.m.
Atlanta at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Cleveland at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
Denver at Chicago, 8p.m.
San Antonio at Phoenix, 9p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Portland, 10p.m.
Orlando at Golden State, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Brooklyn at Dallas, 7:30p.m.
New York at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Boston at L.A. Lakers, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Cleveland, 7p.m.
New York at Indiana, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 7p.m.
Milwaukee at Miami, 7:30p.m.
Oklahoma City at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Brooklyn at Houston, 8p.m.
Dallas at Memphis, 8p.m.
Denver at New Orleans, 8p.m.
Utah at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Orlando at Sacramento, 10p.m.
Portland at Golden State, 10p.m.
Boston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30p.m.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Denver 113, New York 99
Chicago 111, Brooklyn 107
Milwaukee 124, Miami 102
San Antonio 112, Golden State 107
Memphis 97, Dallas 90
Boston 145, Portland 117
Sacramento 104, L.A. Clippers 99

SOCCER

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS
SATURDAY, WEST CONFERENCE FINALS
at Providence Park, Portland, Ore.
#4 Portland 2, #7 Real Salt Lake 0
SUNDAY, EAST CONFERENCE FINALS
at Subaru Park, Chester, Pa.
#4 New York City FC 2, Philadelphia 1

MLS CUP FINAL, DEC. 11
#4 Portland vs. #4 New York City FC, 3p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE									
CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT		
Man City	15	11	2	2	32	9	35		
Liverpool	15	10	4	1	44	12	34		
Chelsea	15	10	3	2	35	9	33		
West Ham	15	8	3	4	28	19	27		
Tottenham	14	8	1	5	16	17	25		
Man United	15	7	5	25	24	24			
Arsenal	14	7	2	5	17	20	23		
Wolverhampton	15	6	3	6	12	13	21		
Brighton	15	4	8	13	16	20			
Aston Villa	15	6	1	8	21	24	19		
Leicester	15	5	4	6	23	27	19		
Brentford	15	4	5	6	19	21	17		
Crystal Palace	15	3	7	5	19	21	16		
Leeds	15	3	7	5	15	22	16		
Southampton	15	3	7	5	14	21	16		
Everton	14	4	3	7	17	24	15		
Watford	15	4	1	10	20	29	13		
Burnley	14	1	7	6	14	21	10		
Newcastle	15	1	7	7	17	30	10		
Norwich	15	2	4	9	8	31	10		

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Leeds 2, Brentford 2
Man United 1, Crystal Palace 0
Tottenham 3, Norwich 0
Aston Villa 2, Leicester 1

MONDAY'S MATCH
Everton vs. Arsenal, 3p.m.

FRIDAY'S MATCH
Brentford vs. Watford, 3p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Man City vs. Wolverhampton, 7:30a.m.
Arsenal vs. Southampton, 10a.m.
Chelsea vs. Leeds, 10a.m.
Liverpool vs. Aston Villa, 10a.m.
Norwich vs. Man United, 12:30p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12
Brighton vs. Tottenham, 9a.m.
Burnley vs. West Ham, 9a.m.
Leicester vs. Newcastle, 9a.m.
Crystal Palace vs. Everton, 11:30a.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14
Brentford vs. Man United, 2:30p.m.
Norwich vs. Aston Villa, 2:45p.m.
Man City vs. Leeds, 3p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15
Brighton vs. Wolverhampton, 2:30p.m.
Burnley vs. Watford, 2:30p.m.
Crystal Palace vs. Southampton, 2:30p.m.
Arsenal vs. West Ham, 3p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16
Leicester vs. Tottenham, 2:30p.m.
Chelsea vs. Everton, 2:45p.m.
Liverpool vs. Newcastle, 3p.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE (17-2-2)
Jan. 31: U.S. 1, Trinidad & Tobago 0
March 25: u.S. 4, Jamaica 1
March 28: U.S. 2, Northern Ireland 1
May 30: Switzerland 2, U.S. 1
a-June 3: U.S. 1, Honduras 0
a-June 6: U.S. 3, Mexico 2, ET
June 9: U.S. 4, Costa Rica 0
b-July 11: U.S. 1, Haiti 0
b-July 15: U.S. 6, Martinique 1
b-July 18: U.S. 1, Canada 0
b-July 25: U.S. 1, Jamaica 0
b-July 29: U.S. 1, Qatar 0
a-Aug. 1: U.S. 1, Mexico 0
q-Sept. 2: U.S. 0, El Salvador 0
q-Sept. 5: U.S. 1, Canada 1
q-Sept. 8: U.S. 4, Honduras 1
q-Oct. 7: U.S. 2, Jamaica 0
q-Oct. 10: Panama 1, U.S. 0
q-Oct. 13: U.S. 2, Costa Rica 1
q-Nov. 12: U.S. 1, Mexico 0
q-Nov. 16: U.S. 1, Jamaica 1
Dec. 18: vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina, 8 p.m.
q-Jan. 27, 2022: vs. El Salvador, TBD
q-Feb. 30: vs. Canada, TBD
q-March 27: vs. Honduras, TBD
q-March 24: vs. Mexico, TBD
q-March 27: vs. Panama, TBD
q-March 30: vs. Costa Rica, TBD
a-Nations Cup, b-Gold Cup;
q-World Cup qualifying

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF				
RK.	SCHOOL	REC	PV	CONF
1.	Alabama	12-1	3	SEC
2.	Michigan	12-1	2	Big Ten
3.	Georgia	12-1	1	SEC
4.	Cincinnati	13-0	4	AAC
5.	Notre Dame	11-1	6	Indep.
6.	Ohio State	10-2	7	Big Ten
7.	Baylor	11-2	9	Big 12
8.	Mississippi	10-2	8	SEC
9.	Oklahoma State	11-2	5	Big 12
10.	Michigan State	10-2	11	Big Ten
11.	Utah	10-3	17	Pac-12
12.	Pittsburgh	11-2	15	ACC
13.	BYU	10-2	12	Indep.
14.	Oregon	10-3	10	Pac-12
15.	Iowa	10-3	13	Big Ten
16.	Oklahoma	10-2	14	Big 12
17.	Wake Forest	10-3	16	ACC
18.	NC State	9-3	18	ACC
19.	Clemson	9-3	20	ACC
20.	Houston	11-2	21	ACC
21.	Arkansas	11-2	24	SEC
22.	Kentucky	9-3	23	SEC
23.	La-Lafayette	12-1	24	Sun Belt
24.	San Diego State	11-2	19	Mtn West
25.	Texas A&M	8-4	25	SEC

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday: at West Virginia,
7 p.m., ESPN2

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Thursday: at Georgia Tech,
7 p.m., ESPN2

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CELTICS 145, TRAIL BLAZERS 117 (LATE SATURDAY)

Tatum, Schroder score 31 each as Celtics rout Blazers

By Erik Garcia Gundersen
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Jayson Tatum and Dennis Schroder scored 31 points apiece as the Boston Celtics rode a sizzling start to a 145-117 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday night.

Enes Freedom grabbed 15 rebounds off the bench for the Celtics, who made 14 of their first 15 shots and built a 21-point, first-half lead.

Coach Ime Udoka said Tatum's recent success has been the product of attacking the basket. Tatum scored 37 on Friday night against Utah.

"He's had some success driving to the basket and getting to the free-throw line," Udoka said. "That's been encouraging him to drive more and not settle as much. With some of their guys out, we felt we could attack some mismatches and get to the basket without a ton of rim protection, and he did that very well."

CJ McCollum scored 24 points for the Trail Blazers.

Portland chipped away behind its bench before Boston took a 64-58 lead into halftime.

"I've never seen a team that needs its bench to inspire its starters," Portland coach Chauncey Billups said. "It should be the other way around."

Boston took control in the second half with a good start to the third quarter. The Celtics pushed their lead to as high as 26 before Portland pulled its starters with 5:51 remaining.

The Celtics continued to pour it on. Former Oregon star Payton Prichard scored 16 points in the final six minutes, sending the Celtics bench into a frenzy. The bench was called for a taunting technical for celebrating Prichard's 3-pointer to put Boston up 145-114.

"You want to see him do well," Udoka said. "The crowd was very supportive of a hometown hero, but it got a little out of hand with our guys getting overzealous and

getting a technical. I did apologize to Chauncey at the end for that. I didn't mean for it to get out of hand like that. You're happy for [Prichard], but there's a line not to cross there."

Boston's 145 points were the most ever scored in regulation by a visiting team in Blazers history.

Saturday night's game was Portland's first following the firing of President of Basketball Operations Neil Olshey. With Joe Cronin assuming the role of interim general manager, Billups expressed his respect for Cronin's new position and excitement about working together.

"I'm very much looking forward to building with Joe," Billups said. "In all honesty right now, Joe is the man. I'm not overlooking that. I don't think anybody should. He's been in the game for a long time, he's well thought of by many people, and I think Joe is as qualified as most people. He's very good. It's easy to jump over that and look for the next move. But right now, Joe is the next move."



Celtics guard Dennis Schröder drives past Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum on Saturday night in Portland, Ore. **STEVE DIPAOLA/AP**

Akok

from Page 1

"It's an opportunity here with Adama going down to have more minutes to really get himself going. We really need him. ... The onus is on Akok right now. It seems like a big moment in his career to turn it up and start making plays on the court."

Until Saturday, Akok has seemed invisible at times on the court. In the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament, not only did he score zero points in three games but had a grand total of 10 rebounds and just one block in 33 minutes.

Akok is billed as shot-blocker and paint protector who plays with massive amounts of energy. In the last four games before Saturday, he looked passive, failing to secure rebounds against shorter opponents and chase after loose balls.

If he doesn't provide anything on the defensive side of the court, Akok's value greatly diminishes. On the offensive end, he's primarily the screener for more offensively savvy players and the roller in pick and rolls. Occasionally, he will take the jumper, but he isn't a player that takes a lot of shots.

In the two games preceding Saturday's, he barely saw five minutes of floor time. Hurley didn't even play him more than four minutes against a short Maryland-Eastern Shore team that UConn struggled to outrebound.

On Saturday, Akok came out with an aggressive mentality that UConn fans had been wanting to see.

Sanogo and Martin are among UConn's leaders in scoring, rebounding and blocks. Akok understood with them

out, UConn misses two guys who combine for 28.5 points, 14 rebounds and 2.4 blocks per game.

Against Grambling State, Akok did his best impression of both stars at times. Early in the game, Akok blocked the Tigers' Cameron Christon at the rim, which led to a fast-break opportunity for the Huskies and eventual score by Whaley after the Huskies corralled two offensive rebounds.

A couple of plays later, Akok rolled to the rim and dunked a monstrous alley-oop that had fans at Gampel Pavilion on their feet.

He showed poise on the court offensively while shooting an efficient 4-for-7 from the field for 10 points, tying his scoring total in his previous five games. On the defensive end, he shut down the paint with four blocks, a season high.

His play was reminiscent of his freshman year, when he showcased his potential before his torn Achilles tendon injury.

Hurley was pleased with how Akok stepped up.

"It was good for him to get a lob dunk, make some impact blocks, and you know he drove the ball. He played offense today," Hurley said. "In the Bahamas, I think he was just a little frozen out there in terms of just trying to get into the flow of things."

As the Huskies continue to play tougher opponents, this is the Akok they need to show up on a consistent basis if they want to win without their two stars.

"We're going to need close to double-figure points from him and impact on the offensive and defensive glass and that shot blocking," said Hurley.



UConn's Akok Akok, left, and Jordan Hawkins celebrate in the first half Saturday against Grambling State in Storrs. Akok scored 10 points in the UConn victory. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

UConn

from Page 1

Mühl saving the ball from going out of bounds and hitting a 3, and Bueckers converting a jumper after coming away with a steal.

Citron's 3 tied things up at 19 early in the second quarter, but the Huskies closed out the half with a 16-6 run to go into the break up 10. Nelson-Ododa was a big reason why, scoring eight points in that stretch alone by dominating the glass, finishing through contact and taking multiple trips to the line. She nearly had a double-double at the half with 12 points and nine rebounds.

Notre Dame cut the deficit to eight multiple times in the third, but UConn responded each time to extend its lead, first thanks to Aaliyah Edwards and then Bueckers. A sloppy final minute in which Notre Dame drew some fouls and got to the line allowed the Irish to make it a 51-44 game going into the fourth. The Huskies had as many turnovers (20) as made field goals going into the final 10 minutes.

"We're not very bright," Auriemma said regarding the turnovers. "Our basketball IQ at times leaves a lot to be desired. We don't see things that are open, and then we try to do things that aren't open. ... Part of it is we're playing too fast. We're not letting things develop the way you need to to run efficient offense. Not enough people are making outside shots, so now you start to force things. That's usually the crux of it."

Nelson-Ododa's basket and Bueckers' 3, her third of the game, to start the fourth pushed UConn's lead back up to double-figures before Ducharme finally got going. She was assertive in driving to the hoop, went 3-for-5 on 3s and got to the line. The Huskies' 13-0 run overall, where they also held the Irish scoreless from the field until the 5:04 mark, put the game out of reach.

UConn unveils Olympic monument

Prior to the game, UConn unveiled a new Olympic monument, commemorating 50 people with UConn connections who have participated in the Olympic and Paralympic Games over the last 70 years.

"I always look at UConn as like a factory of dreams," said Andy Bessette, the executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Travelers and a 1980 Olympian in track and field. "Students come here from all



UConn's Caroline Ducharme, who had 14 fourth-quarter points, drives to the hoop against Notre Dame's Anaya Peoples on Sunday at Gampel Pavilion. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

over the world, all backgrounds, all ethnicities, all cultures to live a dream, to get educated, to be a doctor, to be a nurse, to be a business leader, to be a teacher, to be professors, researchers, dancers, world-class athletes. I think that's what makes UConn so special: that you can live your dream by coming to UConn."

"This is important to what I saw as the vision as an inspiration to young student athletes in high school or younger coming here and saying, 'I can go to UConn to be a professional women's basketball player or professional men's basketball player, a professional football player or an Olympian' ... and then they get here to fulfill their dreams as students and also athletes."

While UConn women's basketball players are well represented on the monument, so are athletes across various sports from Stephanie Labbé (Canada, soccer) to Donn Cabral (USA, track and field) to UConn's first-ever Olympian, Frank Dooley (USA, swimming).

"I think a lot of people know the history of UConn men's and women's basketball, but you don't know about the [other] Olympic athletes because their stage when they're here at UConn might not be as big," 1996 Olympian Rebecca Lobo said. "So it's great that we're recognizing that."

Former Huskies in the crowd for the ceremony included UConn women's basketball alumni Lobo, Kara Wolters, Sue Bird, Swin Cash, Asjha Jones, and Jen Rizzotti. Stefanie Dolson was also in the

UConn 73, NOTRE DAME 54										
Notre Dame	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT			
Mabrey	28	3-6	0-0	0	2	2	9			
Miles	36	4-10	0-1	8	8	2	8			
Westbeld	30	2-9	3-4	3	1	4	7			
Dodson	36	2-11	2-4	7	0	3	6			
Peoples	24	0-3	0-0	3	0	0	0			
Citron	32	5-12	7-8	5	0	3	19			
Brunelle	12	2-6	0-0	0	1	1	5			
Marshall	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0			
Prohaska	1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0			
TOTALS	—	18-58	12-17	32	12	16	54			
Three-point goals: 6-17, 35.3 (Mabrey 3-5, Citron 2-5, Brunelle 1-4, Westbeld 0-1, Miles 0-2). FG pct.: 31.0. FT pct.: 70.6. Team rebounds: 6. Turnovers: 16 (Miles 5, Mabrey 4, Westbeld 2, Dodson 2, Peoples, Citron, Brunelle). Blocks: 4 (Dodson 3, Miles). Steals: 9 (Peoples 3, Citron 2, Mabrey, Miles, Westbeld, Dodson).										
UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT			
Bueckers	39	9-17	1-2	4	4	1	22			
Nelson-Ododa	34	5-7	4-6	13	1	5	14			
Edwards	22	4-7	2-2	0	1	2	10			
Williams	33	2-8	0-0	2	6	2	4			
Westbrook	22	1-6	0-0	7	2	4	3			
Ducharme	14	5-9	1-2	3	0	0	14			
Muhl	14	2-4	0-0	2	1	2	6			
Juhasz	22	0-3	0-0	3	2	2	0			
TOTALS	—	28-61	8-12	45	17	18	73			
Three-point goals: 9-23, 39.1 (Ducharme 3-5, Bueckers 3-7, Muhl 2-4, Westbrook 1-4, Williams 0-3). FG pct.: 45.9. FT pct.: 66.7. Team rebounds: 11. Turnovers: 21 (Edwards 4, Muhl 4, Nelson-Ododa 3, Westbrook 3, Bueckers 2, Ducharme 2, Juhasz 2, Williams). Blocks: 4 (Nelson-Ododa 2, Edwards, Ducharme). Steals: 8 (Bueckers 5, Nelson-Ododa, Edwards, Westbrook).										
Notre Dame	12	13	19	10	—	54				
UConn	16	19	16	22	—	73				
Officials: Lukanich, Cissoko-Stephens, Sidiasky. Att.: 10,167 at Gampel Pavilion, Storrs.										

house for halftime of the game, where the UConn Olympians who made the trip to Storrs were honored.

"Kara was kind of looking [around Werth Champions Center] and she's like, 'We kind of helped build this,'" Lobo said. "Occasions like this, you reflect on stuff and you kind of look around and think, 'Wow, this is pretty incredible.'"

"Pretty proud of all those guys, it's pretty amazing. Really was, to see them all," Auriemma said.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Sooners hire Venables as coach



Oklahoma hired Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables as its head coach to replace Lincoln Riley, according to reports Sunday night. Terms of the deal weren't yet available. Riley departed the Sooners last week to take over at Southern California. Venables was on Oklahoma's staff under Bob Stoops as co-defensive coordinator from 1999 to 2003 and defensive coordinator from 2004-11. He was co-defensive coordinator when the Sooners won the 2000 national title. He left Oklahoma for Clemson in 2012 and won the Broyles Award in 2016 as the nation's top assistant. Venables' Clemson defense led the nation in scoring defense in 2018, and his 2020 unit tied for the lead in sacks. This season, Clemson ranks second nationally in scoring defense, ninth in total defense, eighth in rushing defense and sixth in pass efficiency defense. Oklahoma was caught off guard when Riley took the job at USC. Venables, who turns 51 later this month, was a favorite among fans for the job. It will be the first head coaching job for Venables, who turned down an offer to lead Auburn after the 2020 season.

Hovland rallies for win in Bahamas



The 24-year-old rising star put a nice ribbon on a three-win year in golf by posing with Tiger Woods at the trophy presentation Sunday in the PGA Tour's Hero World Challenge. It just wasn't the winner anyone imagined. Not even Viktor Hovland thought it was realistic he could rally from six shots behind Collin Morikawa, the steady hand who was poised to reach No. 1 in the world with a victory. Instead, the Norwegian did the unthinkable in a final round at Albany that was pure chaos. He looked up from a greenside bunker on the ninth hole and saw Morikawa sliding fast with a pair of double bogeys. Hovland seized on the opportunity with back-to-back eagles and closed with a pair of bogeys he could afford for a 6-under 66 and a one-shot victory. Morikawa — the British Open champion and Hovland's roommate for the week in the Bahamas — took a five-shot lead into the final round and wasn't even a serious factor over the final hour. He shot a 76. Hovland added to his big year that included wins in Germany on the European Tour and Mexico on the PGA Tour. He will moved to No. 7.

Russia claims 2nd Davis Cup title



Russia's 15-year wait for a Davis Cup title ended Sunday in Madrid after another clutch performance from Daniil Medvedev. Medvedev capped his amazing year with a 7-6 (7), 6-2 win over Marin Cilic in the second singles match to give Russia an insurmountable 2-0 lead over Croatia and its first Davis Cup title since 2006. "It feels amazing," Medvedev said. "But I'm more happy for the team than for myself. We have an amazing team, amazing atmosphere. I'm happy to be part of it and bring the points we need." It was the fifth consecutive straight-set victory in the Davis Cup for the No. 2 Medvedev, who three months ago defeated Novak Djokovic to win the U.S. Open for his first Grand Slam title. "Pretty amazing two weeks," Medvedev said. "... They were some of the best weeks of my career." Andrey Rublev earlier had beaten Borna Gojo in straight sets to put the Russians ahead at the Madrid Arena. Russia's other Davis Cup title was in 2002. Croatia also was seeking its third title after triumphs in 2005 and 2018. The doubles match wasn't played. —News services



Michigan tight end Luke Schoonmaker celebrates after the Wolverines won the Big Ten championship game Saturday. DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

CFP SEMIFINALS EARLY LOOK

Four for all the marbles

Mix of old, new set to battle for national championship

By Stephen Hawkins and Eric Olson
Associated Press

Cincinnati is the first outsider to make the College Football Playoff. Alabama is the standard bearer.

The two will meet in a semifinal game deep in the heart of Texas on New Year's Eve in the Cotton Bowl.

American Athletic Conference champion Cincinnati (13-0), the only remaining undefeated team, was fourth in the CFP rankings released Sunday to become the first non-Power Five conference team to make the final four. Top-seeded Alabama (12-1) is making its seventh appearance in the eight seasons of the four-team format and will play its 12th playoff game.

"I can't say that I've studied much of anything that they've done, but obviously just watching from afar this year at times, you know they're a great football team," Cincinnati coach Luke Fickell said of the Crimson Tide on ESPN. "They've got great talent across the board."

The Bearcats finished fourth even with only two victories this season over CFP top 25 teams, though one of those was 24-13 on Oct. 2 at Notre Dame. That was the only loss this season for the Fighting Irish, who were fifth in the CFP, the first team left out of the playoff. Cincinnati won the AAC title game Saturday 35-20 over No. 20 Houston, which had an 11-game winning streak.

"We certainly think Cincinnati belongs in the playoffs and they're a really good team, based on their resume, who they beat, whether it's Notre Dame, Indiana," Alabama coach Nick Saban told ESPN. "We have to have the proper respect."

Alabama has won six national titles under Saban, three of those coming in the short CFP era. This is the fifth time the Crimson Tide is the No. 1 seed.

The Tide won the SEC championship game 41-24 over previously unbeaten Georgia, which is the No. 3 seed and will play Big Ten champion Michigan in the Orange Bowl, the other playoff semifinal.

This will be the third CFP semifinal game Alabama will play inside AT&T Stadium, the home of the NFL's Cowboys, after winning the first two during national championship seasons.

It's Alabama's ninth Cotton Bowl. Cincinnati is playing in the Cotton Bowl for the first time, but will playing in its second New Year's Six game. Last New Year's Day, the Bearcats lost 24-21 in the Peach Bowl when Georgia kicked a 53-yard field goal with three seconds left in the game.

Michigan vs. Georgia

The CFP semifinal in the Orange Bowl will match surging Michigan against a Georgia team that went unbeaten through the regular season before a humbling loss to the defending national champion.

Defense has been the calling card for both. Michigan (12-1) and Georgia (12-1) are two of the more storied programs in college football, but they have faced each other only twice before. They split the two meetings, one in 1957 and the other in 1965.

The Wolverines got on a roll after their only loss, 37-33 at Michigan State on Oct. 30. They closed with a 42-27 win over then-No. 2 Ohio State and put a 42-3 beatdown on Iowa in the Big Ten championship game on Saturday night.

"Just a bunch of guys that wanted to give it their very best and then feel good about what they accomplished," Michigan coach Jim

Harbaugh told ESPN. "They accomplished a lot through a lot of work."

Georgia, with the most dominant defense in the country through its first 12 games, came into the season with high expectations. The Bulldogs were No. 5 in the preseason and No. 2 to Alabama in the first five polls of the regular season. They took over the top spot after Alabama lost at Texas A&M on Oct. 9 and were there until they fell to No. 3 in the AP poll Sunday.

The Bulldogs went into SEC championship game as a touchdown favorite against Alabama. But their offense went flat and committed two turnovers, one an interception returned for a touchdown, and they converted only 3 of 12 third downs.

Alabama's Bryce Young threw for 421 yards and three touchdowns.

"You have to be brutally honest with yourself at a time like this," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "You've got to be able to say, 'Who are we? What are we doing? Well, maybe we're not as good as we thought in some areas, and where can we improve?' Sometimes you'll see that through a loss."

The Wolverines feature two of the best defensive ends in the country in Aidan Hutchinson and David Ojabo, who have combined for 25 sacks, and Georgia has the premier defensive tackle in Outland Trophy finalist Jordan Davis.

At a glance

COTTON BOWL
No. 1 Alabama (12-1) vs. No. 4 Cincinnati (13-0)
3:30 p.m. on Dec. 31 in Arlington, Texas

ORANGE BOWL
No. 2 Michigan (12-1) vs. No. 3 Georgia (12-1)
7:30 p.m. on Dec. 31 in Miami Gardens, Florida

Both games on ESPN

CFP RANKINGS

Tide on top; Cincinnati makes history

By Matt Murschel
Orlando Sentinel

Cincinnati made college football history by becoming the first Group of Five team to qualify for the College Football Playoff, taking the No. 4 spot in Sunday's final rankings.

After weeks of speculation about their postseason résumé, the Bearcats (13-0) earned a chance to compete in the semifinals with a strong 35-21 win over Houston in the American Athletic Conference championship game on Saturday.

Cincinnati faces No. 1 Alabama (12-1) in the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 31 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Alabama secured the top seed for the fifth time in playoff history after upsetting Georgia 41-24 in the SEC championship game. The Crimson Tide rallied from a 10-point first-half deficit to outscore the Bulldogs 41-14 over the final 45 minutes.

After beating Iowa 42-3 in the Big Ten championship game, Michigan (12-1) earned the No. 2 seed. The Wolverines face No. 3 Georgia (12-1) in the Orange Bowl, also on Dec. 31, at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. It's the first time Michigan has qualified for the playoff since its inception in 2014.

These two programs have met twice previously, the last time in 1965.

The discussion heading into Sunday's announcement centered on whether Alabama or Michigan would take the top spot. In the end, CFP Chairman Gary Barta said it all came down to the Crimson Tide's impressive victory over Georgia that sealed the deal.

"You add that to their body of work ... the committee came out of there with a strong consensus that Alabama was (No.) 1 and Michigan (No.) 2," Barta said during his interview with ESPN.

The College Football Playoff national championship game is Jan. 10 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The New Year's Six matchups: No. 10 Michigan State (10-2) will take on No. 12 Pittsburgh (11-2) in the Peach Bowl on Dec. 30. It's the first New Year's Six game for each, but Michigan State did appear in the CFP semifinals in 2015.

After missing out on the semifinals, No. 5 Notre Dame (11-1) faces No. 9 Oklahoma State (11-2) in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1. It's the third New Year's Six game in the last four seasons for the Irish, who will welcome Marcus Freeman as their new coach. Oklahoma State came up inches short of winning the Big 12 championship game, losing to Baylor 21-16.

No. 6 Ohio State (10-2) travels to Pasadena for its first Rose Bowl (Jan. 1) appearance since 2018. The Buckeyes face No. 11 Utah (10-3), which captured its first Pac-12 championship with a 39-10 win over No. 14 Oregon on Saturday. This is the first Rose Bowl for the Utes.

No. 7 Baylor (11-2) will take on No. 8 Ole Miss (10-2) in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1.

Final CFP rankings

Rank, team	Record
1. Alabama	12-1
2. Michigan	12-1
3. Georgia	12-1
4. Cincinnati	13-0
5. Notre Dame	11-1
6. Ohio State	10-2
7. Baylor	11-2
8. Ole Miss	10-2
9. Oklahoma State	11-2
10. Michigan State	10-2
11. Utah	10-3
12. Pittsburgh	11-2
13. BYU	10-2
14. Oregon	10-3
15. Iowa	10-3
16. Oklahoma	10-2
17. Wake Forest	10-3
18. NC State	9-3
19. Clemson	9-3
20. Houston	11-2
21. Arkansas	8-4
22. Kentucky	9-3
23. Louisiana	12-1
24. San Diego State	11-2
25. Texas A&M	8-4

SPORTS

DOLPHINS 20, GIANTS 9

Tua, Dolphins swarm Giants for 5th straight win

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — It was third-and-goal and Tua Tagovailoa was rolling left, waiting for someone to get open. The play looked as if it was falling apart, until he saw Isaiah Ford create a sliver of space for himself near the side of the end zone.

Touchdown.
Tagovailoa watched Ford catch the ball and began jumping around in celebration, punching the air. He had made something out of nothing — just as the Miami Dolphins have out of what was once a train wreck of a season.

A team that was once 1-7 and falling apart is now 6-7 and brimming with confidence. Tagovailoa threw a pair of short touchdown passes, and the Dolphins extended their winning streak to five games by topping the New York Giants 20-9 on Sunday.

“I’m glad we won, but I think there’s a lot of things that we left out there on the field, a lot of plays that we wish we’d have back,” Tagovailoa said.

Mike Glennon started at quarterback for the Giants in place of Daniel Jones, who was sidelined with a neck injury. Glennon completed 23 of 44 throws for 187 yards, and Saquon Barkley had 55 rushing yards on 11 carries.



Dolphins defensive lineman Adam Butler sacks Giants quarterback Mike Glennon in the second half Sunday at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. Glennon was diagnosed with a concussion after the game. JOHN MCCALL/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Glennon finished the game, but the team said he was diagnosed postgame with a concussion.

“We’ve got to do a better job of taking advantage of all opportu-

nities,” Giants coach Joe Judge said. “We have to understand the margin for error in this league is so small.”

New York never found the end

zone against a defense that has yielded only 55 points during the five-game winning streak. Graham Gano had three field goals for the Giants, including a 51-yarder with

4:59 remaining to get New York within 17-9.

The Giants had a chance to force a three-and-out about a minute later, but Tagovailoa found DeVante Parker with a 16-yard pass that required an acrobatic sideline catch to keep the drive alive. And on another third down with 3:14 left, Tagovailoa lofted one perfectly for Mike Gesicki for a 17-yard gain.

New York was out of timeouts, unable to do anything but watch the Dolphins run the clock down to 1:16 before sending Jason Sanders on for a 48-yard field goal, pushing the lead to 11 and sealing the outcome.

“We talk a lot about those late-game situations, how important they are and finishing the game off the right way offensively, defensively and the kicking game,” Dolphins coach Brian Flores said. “I thought we did that across the board.”

Mack Hollins had the other scoring grab for Miami. Jaylen Waddle had nine catches for 90 yards for the Dolphins, and rookie Jaelan Phillips had two more sacks — giving him five in his past two games.

Tagovailoa completed 30 of 41 passes for 244 yards and the two scores.

“We’re just executing better,” Miami linebacker Jerome Baker said.

EAGLES 33, JETS 18

Ticked-off Mosley says Jets not being respected by opponents

By Dennis Waszak Jr.
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — C.J. Mosley felt the disrespect when the Philadelphia Eagles didn’t shake hands at midfield during the pregame coin toss.

The New York Jets linebacker saw it when he said Fletcher Cox laughed at Robert Saleh as the coach argued with officials about a call.

“At the end of the day, it’s all about respect,” Mosley said after a 33-18 loss to the Eagles on Sunday. “And right now, teams are not respecting us. That’s well-deserved, whether it’s by self-inflicted wounds or the history of the Jets.”

Mosley has been around long enough to know what respect looks like, especially from his first five NFL seasons with Baltimore. And the usually reserved linebacker was as fired up after the game as he has been.

“It was all over the field,” Mosley said of the feeling of disrespect. “As a competitor, as a warrior, when you fight with your brothers, that [ticks] you off.”

The wins have been few and far between during his time with the Jets, and another rough loss won’t help things.

“The past doesn’t matter,” Mosley

said. “The guys that are here, the coaches that are here, we can affect the future. And we can affect right now. So today, we didn’t do our job, and the results are the results.”

And they’re not good.

The Jets dropped to 3-9 in what will be an 11th straight season — the NFL’s longest active drought — without a playoff appearance. In this one, they allowed backup quarterback Gardner Minshew to lead the Eagles to scores on each of their first seven possessions. The only time Philadelphia was stopped was on its final drive in the fourth quarter with the game out of reach.

“What’s disheartening is that I know when we watch this tape and we sit down together,” Saleh said, “there’s going to be a lot of missed opportunities that we had from a defensive standpoint to get the ball back to our offense, especially when they were rolling.

“Especially on some of those third downs when we could have been a lot better.”

The Eagles went 6 of 13 in those situations. They also converted their one fourth-down attempt.

But the most damning moment for the Jets’ defense came in the third quarter — and really, for almost the length of the period.

The Eagles held the ball for 13:50, running 24 plays for 81



Eagles tight end Dallas Goedert runs for a touchdown past Jets middle linebacker C.J. Mosley on Sunday in East Rutherford, N.J. ADAM HUNGER/AP

yards while scoring three points. And that came after Philadelphia got a field goal just before halftime. Meanwhile, the Jets ran just three plays in the third quarter, gaining 3 yards in 70 seconds.

“They had the ball to finish the first half,” Saleh said. “Then they go eight minutes and then it’s a quick drive for us and then they had the ball again for however many minutes it was. So you’re looking

at over an hour of real time where our offense was on the field for just a quick minute.”

Philadelphia held the overall edge in time of possession: 35:36 to 24:24.

PATRIOTS

Bills in familiar spot looking up at Pats as showdown looms

By John Wawrow
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Bills safety Jordan Poyer can appreciate the message coach Sean McDermott is attempting to send in publicly referring to Buffalo’s next opponent as “the first-place New England Patriots.”

Subtle or not, McDermott just might be reminding the inconsistent Bills where they were a year ago, where they’re not today, and what’s at stake Monday night, when Buffalo (7-4) hosts New England (8-4) with — guess what? — first place in the AFC East on the line.

“Yeah, it definitely gives you a little bit of motivation,” Poyer said, before refusing to say whether the coach made similar references during team meetings.

“I think you guys are trying to get too much into the locker room now. I think I’m going to keep that to myself,” Poyer said.

What’s not a secret is a year after sweeping the Patriots and running away with their first division title in 25 years, the Bills find themselves in the all-too familiar position of looking up at New England in the standings come December. It’s a place Buffalo became very accustomed to from 2001 to 2019, when quarterback Tom Brady and coach Bill Belichick essentially ruled the division and went 34-4 against the Bills.

Brady might have left for Tampa Bay in 2020, but Belichick remains, and is again proving how the combination of a steady offense, this time under rookie Mac Jones,



Rookie quarterback Mac Jones has the Patriots No. 1 in the NFC East again heading into Monday night’s showdown with the Buffalo Bills. STEVEN SENNE/AP

and an opportunistic defense is a formula for success.

The Patriots have won six straight and outscored opponents by an average of 35-11 during that stretch, while not allowing a point in the second half in each of their past three outings.

The Bills, by comparison, resemble a shadow of the juggernaut they were a year ago, when they won 13 games for the first time since 1991.

Since beating Kansas City to improve to 4-1 on Oct. 10, the Bills have been stuck in a lose-one, win-one pattern over their past six games, and coming off a 31-6

victory against the injury depleted New Orleans Saints. It’s a stretch in which penalties, turnovers, a stagnant offense and sagging defense have all played factors in the three losses.

“Yeah, we’ve been inconsistent at times, and I think it really comes down to us shooting ourselves in the foot in some situations,” McDermott said. “So the great part about the season is we’ve got to continue to work every week to improve. ... And that’s our challenge this week, along with playing the first-place New England Patriots.”

PATRIOTS (8-4) AT BILLS (7-4)

Time/TV: 8:15 p.m., ESPN

Series record: Patriots lead 76-45-1.

Last meeting: Bills beat Patriots 38-9 on Dec. 28, 2020, at New England.

Last week: Patriots beat Titans 36-13; Bills beat Saints 31-6.

Key injuries: Patriots S Kyle Dugger, who leads the team with 75 tackles, was added to the reserve/COVID-19 list Dec. 1 and could be unavailable. LB Jamie Collins (ankle) could be active for the first time in three games. ... Aside from losing CB Tre'Davious White to a season-ending knee injury, the Bills are getting healthier. Starting DT Star Lotulelei and starting RT Spencer Brown returned to practice after being cleared from the reserve/COVID-19 list. G Jon Feliciano (calf) is also eligible to return after missing four games.

Notes: The Patriots had an 11-year run of winning the AFC East end last year, when they finished third, and Buffalo claimed its first division title since 1995. ... New England has won six straight, the team's best streak since opening the 2019 season 8-0. The Patriots have won six or more in a row 15 times since 2001, which marks the most in the NFL over that span. Green Bay is second in that category with eight runs of six or more wins. ... The Patriots are 5-0 on the road this season, and have finished undefeated on the road twice in franchise history (2007 and 2016). ... The Bills haven't won consecutive games since winning their fourth in a row with a 38-20 victory at Kansas City on Oct. 10. ... QB Josh Allen has eight TDs and eight turnovers (seven interceptions, one lost fumble) in his past four outings. ... With two interceptions against New Orleans, Allen improved his career record to 18-15 in the regular season when committing a turnover. ... WR Stefon Diggs has four TDs receiving in the past three outings, and has never had a four-game TD streak in his seven-year career. Diggs had nine catches for 145 yards and three TDs in Buffalo's last meeting with New England. ... RB Matt Breida has combined for 17 carries for 105 yards and a TD, and six catches for 67 yards and two scores in his past three games after being inactive in six straight.

Associated Press

Belichick, meanwhile, stuck to the familiar script of praising Buffalo, something he did even when the Bills were in the midst of a 17-year playoff drought spanning 2000-2016.

“From top to bottom, just a good football team that does everything well,” Belichick said. “Good,

solid team. Good as anyone we’ve played. We know it’ll take a good effort from us Monday night.”

In a season Buffalo has defeated one team with a winning record entering Week 13, the Chiefs, and lost to Tennessee (8-4) and Jacksonville (2-9), the question is which version of the Bills show up?

NFL

AFC

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
New England	8	4	0	.667	336	190	3-4-0	5-0-0	6-1-0	2-3-0	2-1-0
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	326	182	3-2-0	4-2-0	5-4-0	2-0-0	3-0-0
Miami	6	7	0	.462	254	288	4-3-0	2-4-0	4-5-0	2-2-0	2-2-0
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	.250	217	367	2-4-0	1-5-0	3-6-0	0-3-0	0-4-0

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667	304	290	4-2-0	4-2-0	5-3-0	3-1-0	3-1-0
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	371	283	3-4-0	4-2-0	6-3-0	1-3-0	3-2-0
Houston	2	10	0	.167	164	323	1-5-0	1-5-0	2-7-0	0-3-0	2-2-0
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	180	320	2-5-0	0-5-0	2-5-0	0-5-0	0-3-0

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	282	260	5-1-0	3-3-0	5-4-0	3-0-0	1-2-0
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	331	267	3-3-0	4-2-0	5-3-0	2-2-0	3-1-0
Pittsburgh	6	5	1	.542	244	286	4-2-1	2-3-0	4-4-0	2-1-1	2-2-0
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	254	267	4-2-0	2-4-0	3-5-0	3-1-0	1-2-0

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	281	250	4-2-0	3-2-0	2-4-0	5-0-0	1-1-0
L.A. Chargers	7	5	0	.583	314	315	3-3-0	4-2-0	5-3-0	2-2-0	2-1-0
Denver	6	5	0	.545	228	196	3-3-0	3-2-0	3-4-0	3-1-0	1-1-0
Las Vegas	6	6	0	.500	274	312	3-4-0	3-2-0	4-3-0	2-3-0	1-2-0

ROUNDUP

Lions end winless streak

Jared Goff threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Amon-Ra St. Brown as time expired, lifting the previously winless Lions to a 29-27 win over the Vikings on Sunday in Detroit.

Not only was the finish dramatic, it was stunning. Goff led the Lions on a 75-yard decisive possession without a timeout after Kirk Cousins threw a go-ahead 3-yard TD pass to Justin Jefferson with 1:50 left. The Vikings (5-7) failed on a 2-point conversion for the third time.

Goff threw two TD passes in the first half to put the Lions ahead by 14 points.

The Lions (1-10-1) ended a 15-game winless streak, giving first-year coach Dan Campbell his first victory with the franchise.

Cardinals 33, Bears 22: In his return from a three-game injury absence,

Kyler Murray threw for two TDs to lead the Cardinals to the road win. The NFC West leaders, who have the league's best record, intercepted Andy Dalton four times. Murray completed 11 of 15 passes for 123 yards, giving him 10,092 in three seasons. At 24 years, 120 days, he became the fourth-youngest player with 10,000 career yards passing. Murray also joined Cam Newton as the only players in NFL history with at least 10,000 yards passing and 1,500 rushing in his first three seasons.

Buccaneers 30, Falcons 17: Tom Brady threw for 368 yards and four TDs — two of them to TE Rob Gronkowski — and the visiting Bucs moved to the brink of clinching the NFC South title.

Chargers 41, Bengals 22: Justin Herbert passed for three TDs and Te Vaughn Campbell returned a Joe

Mixon fumble 61 yards for a score to power the Chargers on the road.

Eagles 33, Jets 18: Gardner Minshew started in place of an injured Jalen Hurts and led the Eagles to scores on their first seven possessions and the road win.

Dolphins 20, Giants 9: Tua Tagovailoa threw a pair of TD passes, and the host Dolphins extended their winning streak to five games.

Colts 31, Texans 0: Jonathan Taylor ran for 143 yards and two TDs and the Colts rolled on the road. Taylor, who leads the NFL in yards rushing, has 16 rushing TDs this season, which ties the franchise record set by Lenny Moore in 1964.

Steelers 20, Ravens 19: The Steelers thwarted a 2-point conversion attempt after Lamar Jackson's TD pass to Sammy Watkins got the visiting Ravens within one with 12 seconds to go. Ben

NFC

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	353	267	4-2-0	4-2-0	2-3-0	6-1-0	2-0-0
Washington	6	6	0	.500	246	297	3-3-0	3-3-0	1-4-0	5-2-0	1-0-0
Philadelphia	6	7	0	.462	337	291	1-4-0	5-3-0	2-3-0	4-4-0	0-2-0
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	211	273	3-3-0	1-5-0	1-3-0	3-5-0	1-2-0

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Tampa Bay	9	3	0	.750	377	270	5-0-0	4-3-0	3-0-0	6-3-0	2-1-0
Atlanta	5	7	0	.417	216	332	1-5-0	4-2-0	3-1-0	2-6-0	1-3-0
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	236	253	2-4-0	3-3-0	2-2-0	3-5-0	2-0-0
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	274	276	2-4-0	3-3-0	1-2-0	4-5-0	1-2-0

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	283	242	5-0-0	4-3-0	2-1-0	7-2-0	2-1-0
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	308	305	3-2-0	2-5-0	1-3-0	4-4-0	2-1-0
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	201	287	2-4-0	2-4-0	2-3-0	2-5-0	2-1-0
Detroit	1	10	1	.125	203	316	1-5-0	0-5-1	0-3-1	1-7-0	1-4-0

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Arizona	10	2	0	.833	343	224	3-2-0	7-0-0	4-0-0	6-2-0	4-0-0
L.A. Rams	8	4	0	.667	336	270	4-2-0	4-2-0	3-1-0	5-3-0	1-2-0
San Francisco	6	6	0	.500	303	278	2-4-0	4-2-0	1-1-0	5-5-0	1-4-0
Seattle	4	8	0	.333	239	249	2-4-0	2-4-0	2-2-0	2-6-0	2-2-0



The Lions celebrate after beating the Vikings 29-27 with a TD on the final play Sunday in Detroit. **PAUL SANCYA/AP**

Roethlisberger threw for 236 yards and two second-half TDs to Dontae Johnson, T.J. Watt had 3 ½ sacks after he not practicing during the week while on the COVID-19 list and the Steelers ended a three-game winless streak

Seahawks 30, 49ers 23: Russell Wilson threw for 231 yards and two TDs and the host Seahawks made a late goal-line stand to earn their first win in four games.

Washington 17, Raiders 15: Taylor Heinicke threw two TD passes and new kicker Brian Johnson's game-winning 48-yard FG with 37 seconds left to lead the visitor to its fourth straight win.

Rams 37, Jaguars 7: Cooper Kupp, Van Jefferson and Odell Beckham Jr. caught TD passes from Matthew Stafford, and the host Rams ended a three-game skid. Sony Michel rushed for 121 yards and a score in the win.

WEEK 13

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Arizona 33, Chicago 22
Detroit 29, Minnesota 27
Indianapolis 31, Houston 0
L.A. Chargers 41, Cincinnati 22
Miami 20, N.Y. Giants 9
Philadelphia 33, N.Y. Jets 18
Tampa Bay 30, Atlanta 17
L.A. Rams 37, Jacksonville 7
Washington 17, Las Vegas 15
Pittsburgh 20, Baltimore 19
Seattle 30, San Francisco 23
Denver at Kansas City, late

MONDAY'S GAME
New England at Buffalo, 8:15p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULT
Dallas 27, New Orleans 17
Open: Cleveland, Tennessee, Carolina, Green Bay

WEEK 14

THURSDAY'S GAME
Pittsburgh at Minnesota, 8:20p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12
Atlanta at Carolina, 1p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 1p.m.
Dallas at Washington, 1p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1p.m.
Las Vegas at Kansas City, 1p.m.
New Orleans at N.Y. Jets, 1p.m.
Seattle at Houston, 1p.m.
Detroit at Denver, 4:05p.m.
N.Y. Giants at L.A. Chargers, 4:05p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 4:25p.m.
San Francisco at Cincinnati, 4:25p.m.
Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 13
L.A. Rams at Arizona, 8:15p.m.
Off: Indianapolis, Miami, New England, Philadelphia

SUMMARIES

TAMPA BAY 30, ATLANTA 17
Tampa Bay 13 7 0 3 — 30
Atlanta 7 10 0 0 — 17
First Quarter
TB: Fournette 3pass from Brady (Succop kick), 9:53.
Atl: M.Davis 17run (Koo kick), 6:37.
TB: Brate 3pass from Brady (kick failed), 4:23.
Second Quarter
Atl: FG Koo 21, 8:39.
TB: Gronkowski 27pass from Brady (Succop kick), 4:54.
Atl: Davidson 3interception return (Koo kick), :22.
Third Quarter
TB: Gronkowski 11pass from Brady (Succop kick), :29.
Fourth Quarter
TB: FG Succop 31, 1:49.
A: 69,366.

TEAM STATS	TB	ATL
First downs	25	21
Total net yards	425	380
Rushes-yards	17-57	23-121
Passing	368	259
Punt returns	2-7	1-7
Kickoff returns	0-0	1-30
Interceptions ret.	0-0	1-3
Comp-att-int	38-51-0	30-41-0
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	5-38
Punts	3-44-33.3	5-43.0
Fumbles-lost	0-0	5-1
Penalties-yards	3-15	6-39
Time of possession	27:14	32:46

RUSHING: Tampa Bay, Fournette 13-44, Godwin 1-9, Bernard 1-3, Jones 1-2, Brady 1-(minus 1). Atlanta, Patterson 13-78, Davis 4-32, Ollison 2-7, Zaccheaus 1-2, Ryan 3-2.
PASSING: Tampa Bay, Brady 38-51-1-368, Atlanta, Ryan 30-41-0-297.
RECEIVING: Tampa Bay, Godwin 15-143, Evans 7-99, Fournette 7-48, Gronkowski 4-58, Bernard 1-7, Johnson 1-5, Perri-man 1-5, Brate 1-3, Jones 1-0. Atlanta, Gage 11-130, K.Pitts 4-48, Davis 4-37, Zaccheaus 3-44, Patterson 3-18, Sharpe 3-10, Ollison 1-8, K.Smith 1-2.
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Tampa Bay, White 7-3-0, Suh 2-2-2, Vea 2-0-2, Gill 2-0-1. Atlanta, Oluokun 8-7-0.
INTERCEPTIONS: Atlanta, Davidson 1-3.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: None.

INDIANAPOLIS 31, HOUSTON 18
Indianapolis 7 7 7 10 — 31
Houston 0 0 0 0 — 0
First Quarter
Ind: J.Taylor 1run (Badgley kick), 11:26.
Second Quarter
Ind: Dulin 2pass from Wentz (Badgley kick), :48.
Third Quarter
Ind: J.Taylor 3run (Badgley kick), 9:51.
Fourth Quarter
Ind: FG Badgley 23, 9:08.
Ind: DeJackson 3run (Badgley kick), 1:56.
A: 65,291.

TEAM STATS	IND	HOU
First downs	26	9
Total net yards	389	141
Rushes-yards	48-238	19-84
Passing	151	57
Punt returns	5-37	1-4
Kickoff returns	0-0	2-48
Interceptions ret.	1-0	0-0
Comp-att-int	16-22-0	11-27-1
Sacked-yards lost	1-7	4-37
Punts	3-41-33.3	6-50-33.3
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-yards	5-25	4-25
Time of possession	41:09	18:20

RUSHING: Indianapolis, Taylor 32-143, Pittman 2-33, Hines 3-24, Jackson 6-19, Pascal 1-12, Wentz 3-8, Ehlinger 1-(minus 1). Houston, Burkhead 8-30, Cooks 1-16, T.Taylor 3-15, Mills 2-11, Freeman 3-10. Samuels 2-2.
PASSING: Indianapolis, Wentz 16-22-0-158, Houston, Mills 6-14-0-49, T.Taylor 5-13-1-45.
RECEIVING: Indianapolis, Pittman 6-77, Hines 3-32, Hilton 2-22, Doyle 1-13, Gronson 1-6, Pascal 1-6, Dulin 1-2, Alie-Cox 1-0. Houston, Brown 4-23, Cooks 3-10, Jordan 2-7, Burkhead 1-15, Free-man 1-11.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: Indianapolis, Badgley 35.

ARIZONA 33, CHICAGO 22
Arizona 14 7 3 9 — 33
Chicago 0 7 7 8 — 22
First Quarter
Ari: Hopkins 20pass from K.Murray (Prater kick), 10:59.
Ari: K.Murray 9run (Prater kick), 1:48.
Second Quarter
Chi: Montgomery 1run (Santos kick), 8:50.
Ari: Conner 23pass from K.Murray (Prater kick), 5:49.
Third Quarter
Ari: FG Prater 33, 9:52.
Chi: J.Graham 1pass from Dalton (Santos kick), 2:56.
Fourth Quarter
Ari: FG Prater 25, 8:31.
Ari: K.Murray 3run (pass failed), 6:23.
Chi: Grant 8pass from Dalton (J.Graham pass from Dalton), 2:50.
A: 60,803.

TEAM STATS	ARI	CHI
First downs	14	26
Total net yards	257	329
Rushes-yards	35-137	27-112
Passing	120	217
Punt returns	1-0	1-8
Kickoff returns	3-71	2-49
Interceptions ret.	4-121	0-0
Comp-att-int	11-15-0	26-41-4
Sacked-yards lost	1-3	3-12
Punts	2-49.5	2-45.5
Fumbles-lost	2-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	8-63	6-45
Time of possession	25:15	34:45

RUSHING: Arizona, Conner 20-75, K.Murray 10-59, Moore 3-2, Benjamin 2-1. Chicago, Montgomery 21-90, Herbert 4-16, Dalton 2-6.
PASSING: Arizona, K.Murray 11-15-0-123, Chicago, Dalton 26-41-4-229.
RECEIVING: Arizona, Conner 2-36, Hopkins 2-32, Harris 2-7, Green 1-14, Benjamin 1-12, Ertz 1-10, Moore 1-8, Kirk 1-4. Chicago, Montgomery 8-51, Grant 5-62, Mooney 5-27, Kmet 3-41, Byrd 3-36, Herbert 1-11, J.Graham 1-1.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: None.

L.A. RAMS 37, JACKSONVILLE 7
Jacksonville 0 7 0 0 — 7
L.A. Rams 10 6 14 7 — 37
First Quarter
LAR: FG Gay 40, 12:20.
LAR: Michel 5run (Gay kick), 10:25.
Second Quarter
Jac: Hyde 1run (Wright kick), 13:23.
LAR: FG Gay 44, 7:41.
LAR: FG Gay 37, :19.
Third Quarter
LAR: Kupp 29pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 11:43.
LAR: Jefferson 2pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 3:27.
Fourth Quarter
LAR: Beckham 1pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 10:52.

TEAM STATS	JAC	LAR
First downs	14	24
Total net yards	197	418
Rushes-yards	25-61	27-128
Passing	136	290
Punt returns	0-0	0-0
Kickoff returns	1-24	2-81
Interceptions ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-att-int	16-28-0	26-38-0
Sacked-yards lost	2-9	1-5
Punts	5-49.4	3-50.0
Fumbles-lost	3-2	1-0
Penalties-yards	3-39	7-47
Time of possession	26:15	33:45

RUSHING: Jacksonville, J.Robin-son 8-24, Hyde 9-24, Lawrence 4-10, Beathard 1-2, Shenault 3-1. L.A. Rams, Michel 24-121, Sargent 2-5, Stafford 1-2.
PASSING: Jacksonville, Lawrence 16-28-0-145. L.A. Rams, Stafford 26-38-0-295.
RECEIVING: Jacksonville, Treadwell 4-62, Shenault 3-30, O'Shaughnessy 2-13, M.Jones 2-11, Mickens 2-10, J.Robinson 1-11, Austin 1-9, Hyde 1-(minus 1). L.A. Rams, Kupp 8-129, Jefferson 6-41, Higbee 5-48, Michel 3-8, Beckham 2-28, Skowronek 1-35, Blanton 1-6.
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Jacksonville, Lawson 7-0-0, Wingard 3-0-0, Jack 3-4-0, Ford 3-3-5, Smoot 3-2-5. L.A. Rams, E.Jones 5-4-5, Fuller 5-3-0, D.Williams 4-0-0, Donald 2-3-1-5.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: None.

L.A. CHARGERS 41, CINCINNATI 22
L.A. Chargers 16 8 0 17 — 41
Cincinnati 0 13 9 0 — 22
First Quarter
LAC: K.Allen 4pass from Herbert (kick failed), 11:31.
LAC: FG D.Hopkins 43, 6:28.
LAC: K.Allen 7pass from Herbert (D.Hopkins kick), 1:34.
Second Quarter
LAC: Guyton 44pass from Herbert (Herbert pass from K.Allen), 10:12.
Cin: Higgins 29pass from Burrow (kick failed), 7:39.
Cin: Burrow 6run (McPherson kick), 2:40.
Third Quarter
Cin: FG McPherson 48, 9:53.
Cin: Mixon 7run (run failed), 7:10.
Fourth Quarter
LAC: Campbell 61fumble return (D.Hopkins kick), 13:43.
LAC: Ekeler 1run (D.Hopkins kick), 10:49.
LAC: FG D.Hopkins 43, 1:10.

TEAM STATS	LAC	CIN
First downs	18	21
Total net yards	363	356
Rushes-yards	22-79	25-96
Passing	284	260
Punt returns	2-18	1-5
Kickoff returns	3-99	3-52
Interceptions ret.	2-0	1-0
Comp-att-int	26-35-1	24-40-2
Sacked-yards lost	4-33	6-40
Punts	4-42.25	4-45.0
Fumbles-lost	2-2	2-2
Penalties-yards	7-51	7-63
Time of possession	28:42	31:18

RUSHING: L.A. Chargers, Ekeler 14-59, Jackson 6-15, Herbert 1-6, Guyton 1-(minus 1). Cincinnati, Mixon 19-54, Perrine 5-36, Burrow 1-6.
PASSING: L.A. Chargers, Herbert 26-35-1-317, Cincinnati, Burrow 24-40-2-300.
RECEIVING: L.A. Chargers, Williams 5-110, Ekeler 5-45, Allen 5-34, Guyton 4-90, Cook 3-29, Jackson 2-6, Parham 2-3. Cincinnati, Higgins 9-138, Boyd 5-85, Chase 5-52, Uzomah 3-20, Payne 2-5.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: None.

WASHINGTON 17, LAS VEGAS 15
Washington 7 0 0 10 — 17
Las Vegas 0 3 3 9 — 15
First Quarter
Was: L.Thomas 7pass from Heinicke (B.Johnson kick), 9:39.
Second Quarter
Las: FG Carlson

WEATHER

MONDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Showers in the morning and in the evening, considerable clouds, becoming windy. West wind at 10 to 20 mph.

HIGH 57° LOW 33°

TUESDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Partly sunny, breezy and colder.

HIGH 40° LOW 24°

WEDNESDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy light snow and rain is possible, mainly late in the day.

HIGH 36° LOW 25°

THURSDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Partly sunny and chilly.

HIGH 38° LOW 26°

FRIDAY

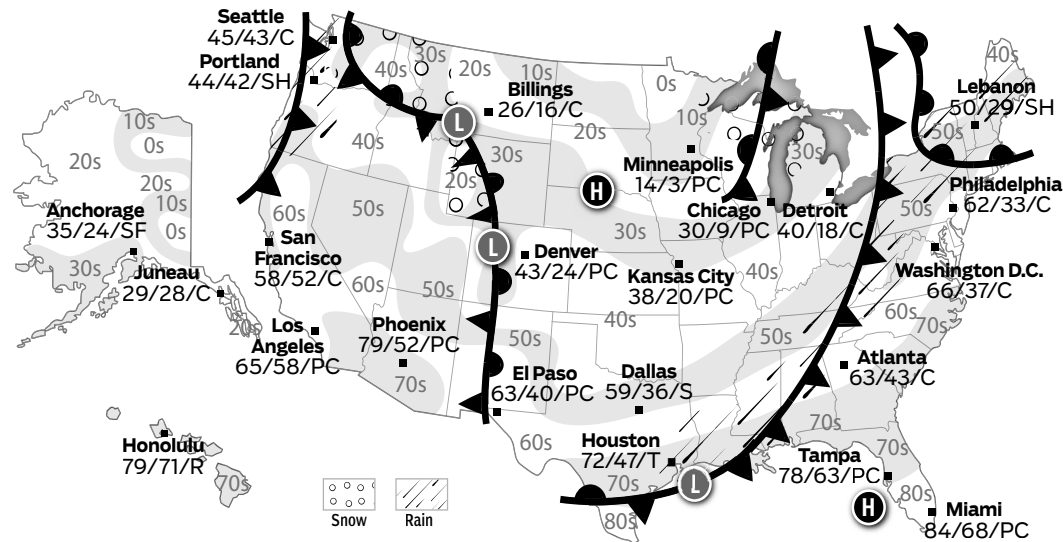
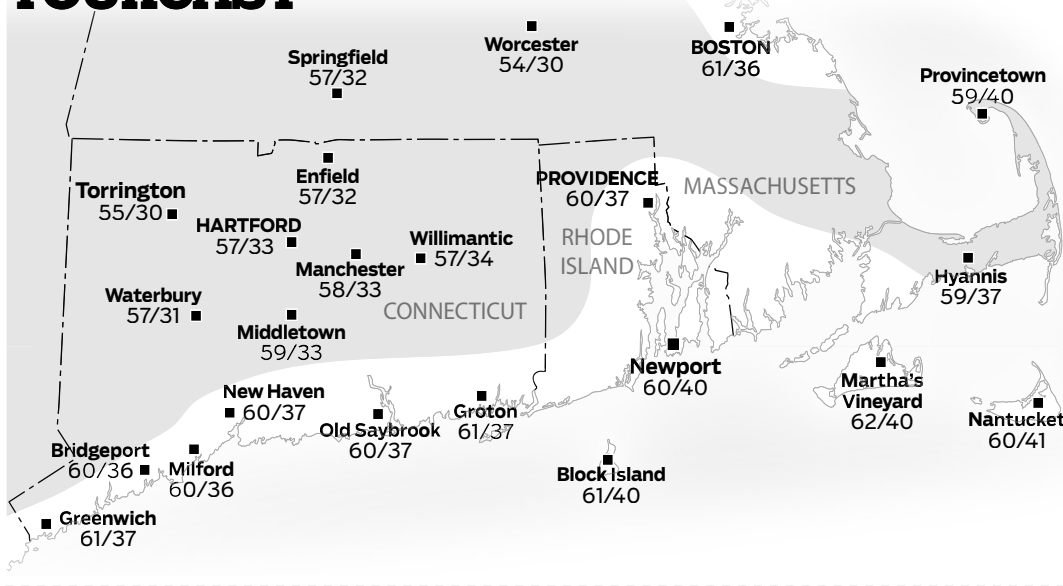
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy with rain or snow showers possible.

HIGH 44° LOW 30°

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



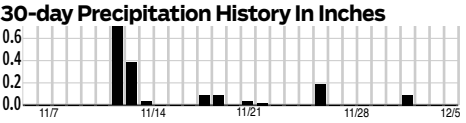
OUTLOOK

A warm front lifting northward through the state Monday morning will cause cloudy skies and showers. The wind will be on the light side. Once the front moves north of the state, temperatures will jump into the 50s and it will become windy with peak gusts up to 40 mph possible. There should be breaks of sunshine, but a cold front approaching the area will cause cloudiness to thicken up again and there could be some late day showers, mainly in western portions of the state. Showers are likely this evening with the frontal passage and then partial clearing overnight.

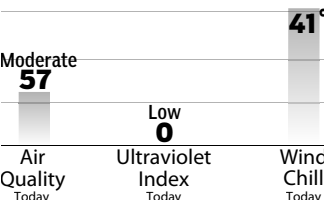
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

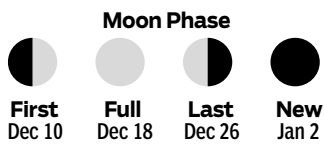
Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00 0.14
Month to date	0.09 0.70
Total this year	52.08 43.67
Snowfall in Inches	
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0 0.2
Total this year	Trace 3.2
Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks	



Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:03 a.m.	7:04 a.m.
Sunset	4:20 p.m.	4:20 p.m.
Moonrise	9:49 a.m.	10:43 a.m.
Moonset	6:45 p.m.	7:59 p.m.



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	10:26 a.m.	4:22 a.m.	47°
	10:57 p.m.	5:18 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	11:37 a.m.	5:16 a.m.	48°
	p.m.	6:11 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	1:55 a.m.	9:02 a.m.	
	2:20 p.m.	9:57 p.m.	
Madison	11:59 a.m.	5:40 a.m.	47°
	p.m.	6:24 p.m.	
New Haven	12:02 a.m.	6:04 a.m.	47°
	12:19 p.m.	6:48 p.m.	
Stamford	12:06 a.m.	6:18 a.m.	49°
	12:23 p.m.	7:02 p.m.	
River Stage at Hartford: 4.55 feet at 5:30 p.m.			
Boating	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
Weather AM	Showers	AM Showers	Showers
Wind	S, 15-20	S/SW, 15-25	S, 25-35
Seas	2-3 ft.	3-5 ft.	5-8 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Sunday	46 at 2:39 p.m	30 at 7:31 a.m
Normal for date	44	27
Record for date	68 in 2001	3 in 1976
A year ago	44	33
Range this year	99	1

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND

Bangor	46 29 SH
Burlington	47 26 SH
Caribou	46 26 R
Concord	51 34 SH
Montpelier	50 22 SH
Mt. Wash.	33 1 SH
Portland	53 34 SH
Woods Hole	58 38 C

NATION

Albany	56 28 SH
Albuquerque	56 37 PC
Atlantic City	68 31 PC

Baltimore	59 32 SH
Bismarck	12 5 PC
Boise	38 30 C
Buffalo	46 27 SH
Charleston	77 57 PC
Cincinnati	47 18 C
Cleveland	40 23 C
Indianapolis	39 16 PC
Jacksonville	80 58 PC
Las Vegas	68 52 PC
Miami Beach	80 72 PC
Milwaukee	27 9 C

Nashville	48 26 SH
New Orleans	79 55 C
New York	62 38 C
Okla. City	49 27 PC
Omaha	30 21 PC
Orlando	82 60 PC
Pittsburgh	52 23 SH
Raleigh	75 44 PC
St. Louis	42 21 S
Salt Lake City	53 35 C
San Antonio	70 45 C
San Diego	65 58 PC

San Juan	86 74 PC
Tucson	79 49 S

WORLD

Budapest	39 25 C
Buenos Aires	79 66 PC
Cairo	72 58 PC
Cancun	82 74 SH
Dubai	82 68 PC
Dublin	43 41 PC
Helsinki	10 9 PC
Edinburgh	41 34 SH
Hong Kong	73 63 S
Istanbul	63 52 C
Jerusalem	61 48 PC
Bermuda	74 67 PC
Johannesburg	81 63 SH

Kingston	90 74 PC
Lisbon	64 54 PC
London	45 34 SH
Madrid	55 43 PC
Mexico City	76 48 PC
Milan	48 28 C
Montreal	46 21 R
Moscow	28 25 SN
Nassau	81 66 SH
New Delhi	73 54 C
Paris	45 36 SH
Prague	34 28 C
Rio de Janeiro	81 68 T
Rome	50 30 C
Seoul	52 36 S
Singapore	93 75 SH

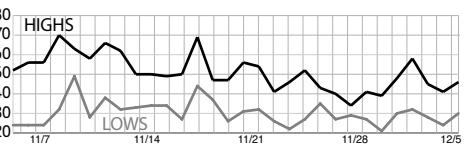
Weather page produced by

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Weather Center

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Dec 5	1110	1309	1102

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.40 at 10 a.m.	30.16 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	27° at 12 a.m.	18° at 2 p.m.

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Sunday's high school results

CIAC STATE TOURNAMENTS

FOOTBALL

Class LL—Semifinals

FAIRFIELD PREP 24, SHELTON 3

DARLEN 24, NEW CANAAN 10

Class L—Semifinals

WINDSOR 35, ST. JOSEPH 31

MALONEY 45, MASUK 21

Class M—Semifinals

ROCKVILLE 42, TORRINGTON 12

T (8-4) 6 0 0 6 — 12

B (10-2) 6 15 14 7 — 42

First Quarter

T—Sean Clinkscales 6run (kick failed)

R—Travon Edmondson 4run (kick failed)

Second Quarter

R—Edmondson 1run (Michael Naylor kick)

R—DeShaun Perry 21pass from Matt Ryan (Edmondson run)

Third Quarter

R—Edmondson 9run (Naylor kick)

R—Perry 53pass from Ryan (Naylor kick)

Fourth Quarter

R—Edmondson 2run (Naylor kick)

T—Clinkscales 64run (run failed)

KILLINGLY 13, BRANFORD 12

Class S—Semifinals

Bloomfield 22, New Fairfield 12

NF (9-3) 0 7 7 0 — 14

B (12-0) 0 2 2 0 0 — 22

Second Quarter

NF—Ryan Fata 54pass from Justin McCormack (Jaden Arterberry kick)

B—Safety

Third Quarter

B—Davien Kerr 8pass from Darrien Foster (Matthew Miller kick)

NF—McCormack 5run (Arterberry kick)

B—Davien Kerr 10pass from Foster (pass failed)

B—Howard Simpson fumble recovery (Miller kick)

CROMWELL/PORTLAND 46, ANSONIA 7

Saturday's high school schedule

CIAC TOURNAMENTS

FOOTBALL

At Trumbull High School

Class S—Final

No. 2Cromwell/Portland (12-0) vs. No. 1Bloomfield (12-0), 11a.m.
Class LL—Final
No. 3Darien (11-1) vs. No. 1Fairfield Prep (11-1), 3p.m.
At Veteran's Stadium, New Britain
Class L—Final
No. 5Windsor (11-1) vs. No. 3Maloney (11-1), 11a.m.
Class M—Final
No. 2Rockville (10-2) vs. No. 1Killingly (11-0), 3 p.m.

Saturday's late college results

MEN'S HOCKEY

HARVARD 5, YALE 3

QUINNIPIAC 4, UNION 0

MEN'S SQUASH

TRINITY 9, COLBY 0

WOMEN'S SQUASH

TRINITY 9, BATES 0

Sunday's college results

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

National Invitational Championship—Second Round

UCONN 3, BOSTON COLLEGE 2 (21-25, 25-19, 25-22, 20-25, 15-9)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

HARTFORD 68, ST. FRANCIS-BROOKLYN 55

QUINNIPIAC 90, MANHATTAN 73

BROWN 79, SACRED HEART 66

FAIRFIELD 81, NIAGARA 71

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UCONN 73, NOTRE DAME 54

NORTHEASTERN 73, HARTFORD 53

SYRACUSE 116, CENTRAL 65

NYU 91, WESLEYAN 46

MEN'S SQUASH

TRINITY 8, BOWDOIN 1

HOBART 8, WESLEYAN 1

WOMEN'S SQUASH

TRINITY 9, BOWDOIN 0

WILLIAM SMITH 8, WESLEYAN 1

Monday's college schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Trinity at Nichols, 6p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sacred Heart at Fairfield, 7p.m.

AHL

Atlantic	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Springfield	19	14	3	2	0	30	.789
Hartford	18	12	4	2	0	26	.722
Providence	17	8	5	3	1	20	.588
Hershey	17	8	6	2	1	19	.559
Charlotte	21	10	9	2	0	22	.524
W-B/Scranton	18	8	8	0	2	18	.500
Bridgeport	22	7	12	1	2	17	.386
Lehigh Valley	19	3	11	4	1	11	.289
North	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Utica	18	16	1	1	0	33	.917
Rochester	17	11	6	0	0	22	.647
Cleveland	19	9	5	2	3	23	.605
Toronto	17	9	6	1	1	20	.588
Laval	20	9	9	2	0	20	.500
Belleville	20	9	11	0	0	18	.450
Syracuse	17	6	8	2	1	15	.441
Central	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Chicago	20	14	4	1	1	30	.750
Manitoba	20	13	6	1	0	27	.675
Iowa	18	9	8	1	0	19	.528
Grand Rapids	19	8	8	2	1	19	.500
Rockford	18	8	8	1	1	18	.500
Texas	18	7	8	2	1	17	.472
Milwaukee	20	7	12	1	0	15	.375
Pacific	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Stockton	17	13	2	2	0	28	.824
Ontario	17	12	4	0	1	23	.735
Henderson	16	8	6	1	1	18	.563
Tucson	16	8	7	1	0	17	.531
San Diego	17	8	8	1	0	17	.500
Colorado	19	8	8	1	2	19	.500
Bakersfield	15	6	6	1	2	15	.500
Abbotsford	16	6	7	2	1	15	.469
San Jose	15	6	8	1	0	13	.433

Saturday's late results

BRIDGEPORT 3, UTICA 2 (OT)

MILWAUKEE 5, CLEVELAND 4

MANITOBA 3, BELLEVILLE 1

GRAND RAPIDS 6, ROCKFORD 2

CHICAGO 2, IOWA 1

STOCKTON 3, SAN DIEGO 2

COLORADO 4, TUCSON 0
ONTARIO 3, BAKERSFIELD 2 (SO)
SAN JOSE 6, ABBOTSFORD 4
SAN Jose's results
CHARLOTTE 3, BRIDGEPORT 2
MANITOBA 2, BELLEVILLE 0
LAVAL 5, TORONTO 1
CHICAGO 4, IOWA 0
SAN JOSE AT ABBOTSFORD, LATE
Monday's schedule
Grand Rapids at Cleveland, 7p.m.

BIG EAST BASKETBALL

MEN'S	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
Team	0-0	.000	8-1	.889
Providence	0-0	.000	8-1	.889
UConn	0-0	.000	7-1	.875
Seton Hall	0-0	.000	7-1	.875
Xavier	0-0	.000	6-1	.857
DePaul	0-0	.000	7-2	.778
Creighton	0-0	.000	7-2	.778
Marquette	0-0	.000	6-2	.750
Villanova	0-0	.000	5-2	.714
St. John's	0-0	.000	5-3	.625
Butler	0-0	.000	3-4	.429
Georgetown	0-0	.000		

Saturday's late result
IOWA STATE 64, CREIGHTON 58
Sunday's results
SOUTH CAROLINA 80, GEORGETOWN 67
XAVIER 77, OKLAHOMA STATE 71
FORDHAM AT ST. JOHN'S, LATE
Tuesday's schedule
Vermont at Providence, 6:30p.m.
Duquesne at DePaul, 8:30p.m.
Villanova at Syracuse, 9p.m.
Butler at Oklahoma, 9p.m.

WOMEN'S	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
Team	2-0	1.000	6-2	.750
Marquette	2-0	1.000	5-2	.714
Creighton	1-0	1.000	5-1	.833
UConn	1-0	1.000	6-2	.750
DePaul	1-0	1.000	4-4	.500
St. John's	1-1	.500	4-4	.500
Georgetown	1-1	.500	4-5	.444
Providence	1-1	.500	3-4	.429
Xavier	0-2	.000	3-4	.429
Seton Hall	0-2	.000	3-5	.375
Villanova	0-2	.000	0-8	.000
Butler	0-2	.000		

Sunday's results

UCONN